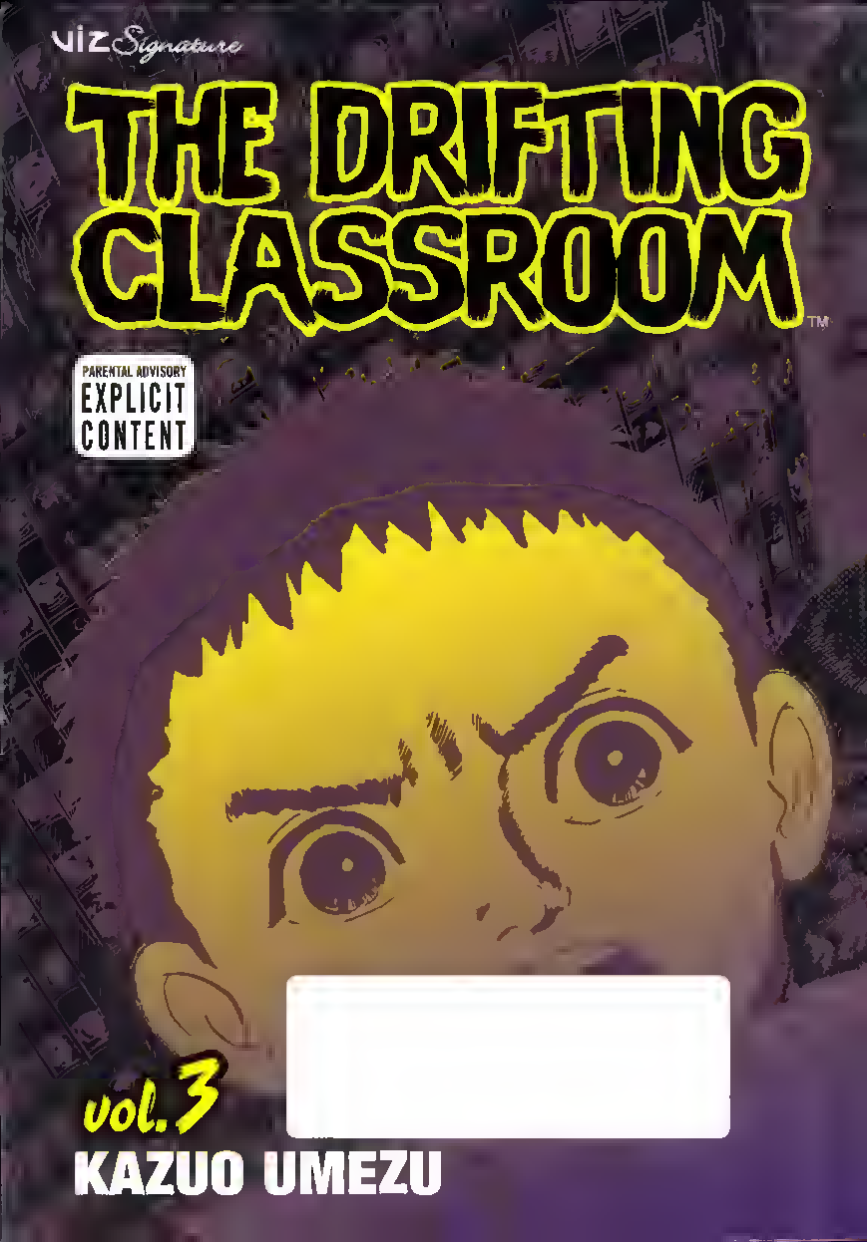
VIZ Signature

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM™

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT



vol. 3

KAZUO UMEZU

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM™

"An ominous atmosphere that affects the reader before the story even begins…extremely disturbing…a great rediscovery of a classic title, echoes of which can be seen in modern horror manga."
—Publishers Weekly Starred Review

Out of nowhere, a Japanese elementary school is transported into a hostile world. Now, the students and teachers must struggle to survive in impossible conditions, besieged by terrifying creatures and beset by madness. Part horror, part science fiction, ***The Drifting Classroom*** is a classic can't-put-down manga series from horror manga master Kazuo Umezu ***(Orochi: Blood, Baptism of Blood)!***

As sixth-grader Sho fights for his life in the buried city that once was Tokyo, his cries for help travel across time and reach the ears of his mother in the distant past. But how can she save her son now? Back at the school, as their resources dwindle, the students revert to savagery and despair. Suddenly, a dying student staggers in from the wasteland, bearing signs that life may exist somewhere in their new world. Together with the last surviving adult, the children march into the desert...but are they ready for what they find?

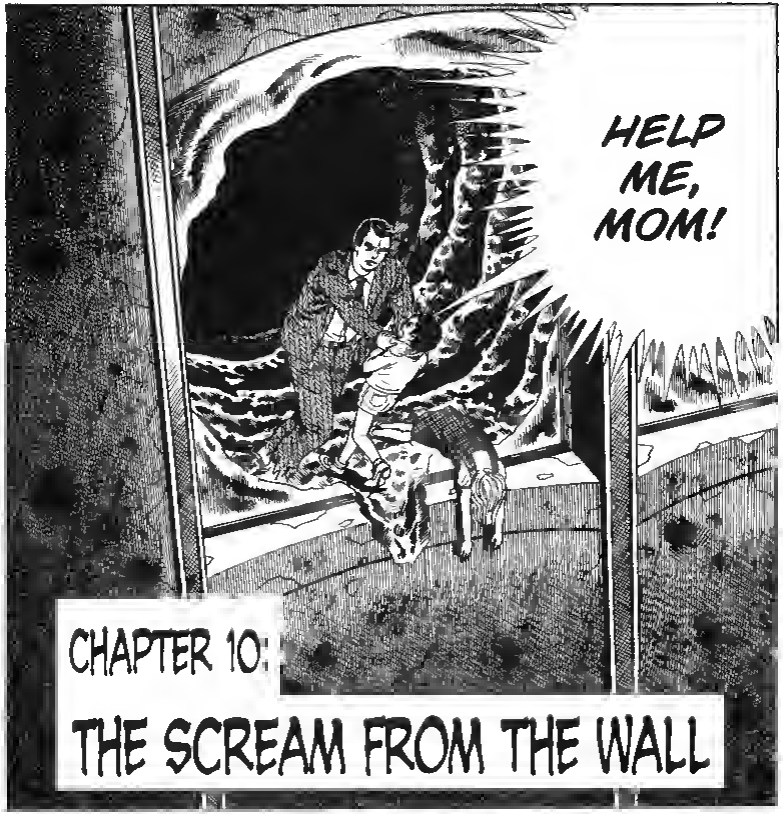
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1936, Kazuo Umezu is Japan's most respected and influential horror manga artist. Umezu began his artistic career at the age of 18, creating stories for both *shôjo* (girls) and *shonen* (boys) manga magazines, and working in an amazingly diverse range of genres. In Japan he is most famous for the gag manga *Makoto-chan* (1971), but his most ambitious works are horror and science fiction, including *The Drifting Classroom* (1972-1974), *My Name is Shingo* (1982-1986), *The Left Hand of God, the Right Hand of the Devil* (1986-1989) and *Fourteen* (1990-1995). His works have been adapted into anime and live-action films.

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM™

vol.3

KAZUO UMEZU



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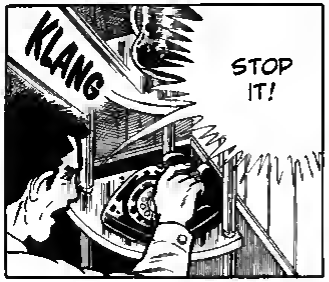
SHO! ARE YOU THERE?!
HELLO! HELLO?
SHO?!
SHO! SHO!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON...?!
SHO!! WHERE ARE YOU!?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
HELLO! HELLO?!
IT'S SHO! HE'S ALIVE!
EMIKO! EMIKO, CALM DOWN!
HELLO...?
GIVE ME THAT!
YES, THIS IS MR. TAKAMATSU
HELLO, IS THIS THE TAKAMATSU RESIDENCE?
I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW HOW SORRY I AM ABOUT YOUR SON
I'M THE MOTHER OF SHINICHI YAMADA ONE OF YOUR SON'S CLASSMATES

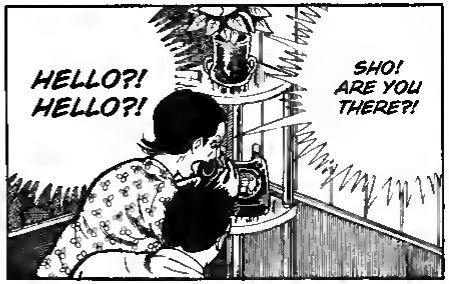
BUT MAYBE NOW'S NOT A GOOD TIME...
I WAS CALLING BECAUSE I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR WIFE.

HELLO, SHO?

LET ME TALK TO HIM!

ANSWER ME!
HELLO!

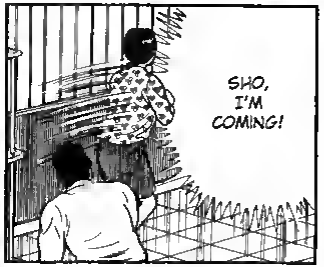

KLANG
STOP IT!

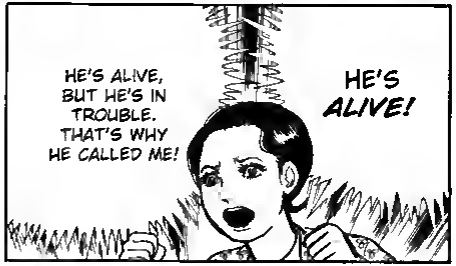

HELLO?! HELLO?!
SHO! ARE YOU THERE?!

EMIKO, LISTEN TO YOURSELF! HOW IN THE WORLD COULD SHO HAVE CALLED?!
NO, THAT WAS SHINICHI'S MOTHER!

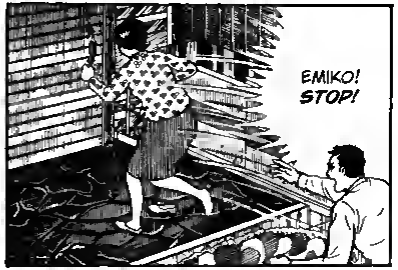
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? THAT WAS SHO! YOU HUNG UP ON HIM!

HE WAS CRYING, "MOM, HELP ME!"
BUT I HEARD HIM! HE WAS LOUD AND CLEAR!


SHO, I'M COMING!

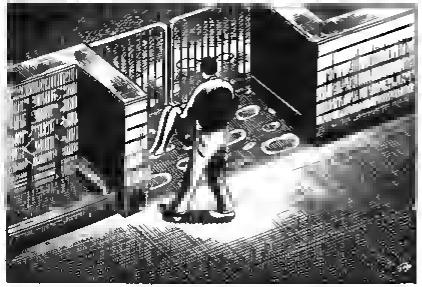

HE'S ALIVE, BUT HE'S IN TROUBLE. THAT'S WHY HE CALLED ME!
HE'S ALIVE!

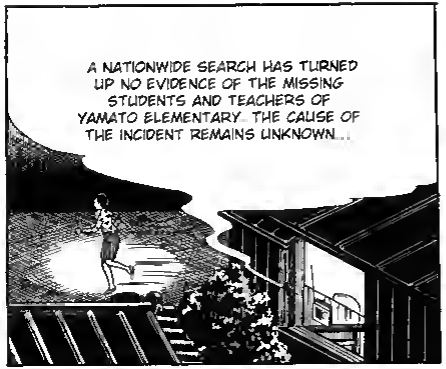
SHO, WHERE ARE YOU?!


EMIKO! STOP!

I BELIEVE YOU SHO'S ALIVE

BUT WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS




A NATIONWIDE SEARCH HAS TURNED UP NO EVIDENCE OF THE MISSING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF YAMATO ELEMENTARY. THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT REMAINS UNKNOWN...

WHERE ARE YOU?

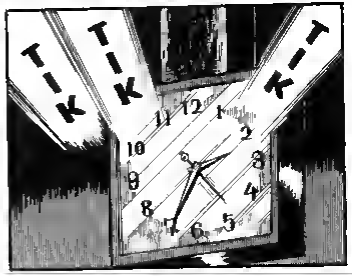
SPLISH
SPLISH

EMIKO!

SPLISH

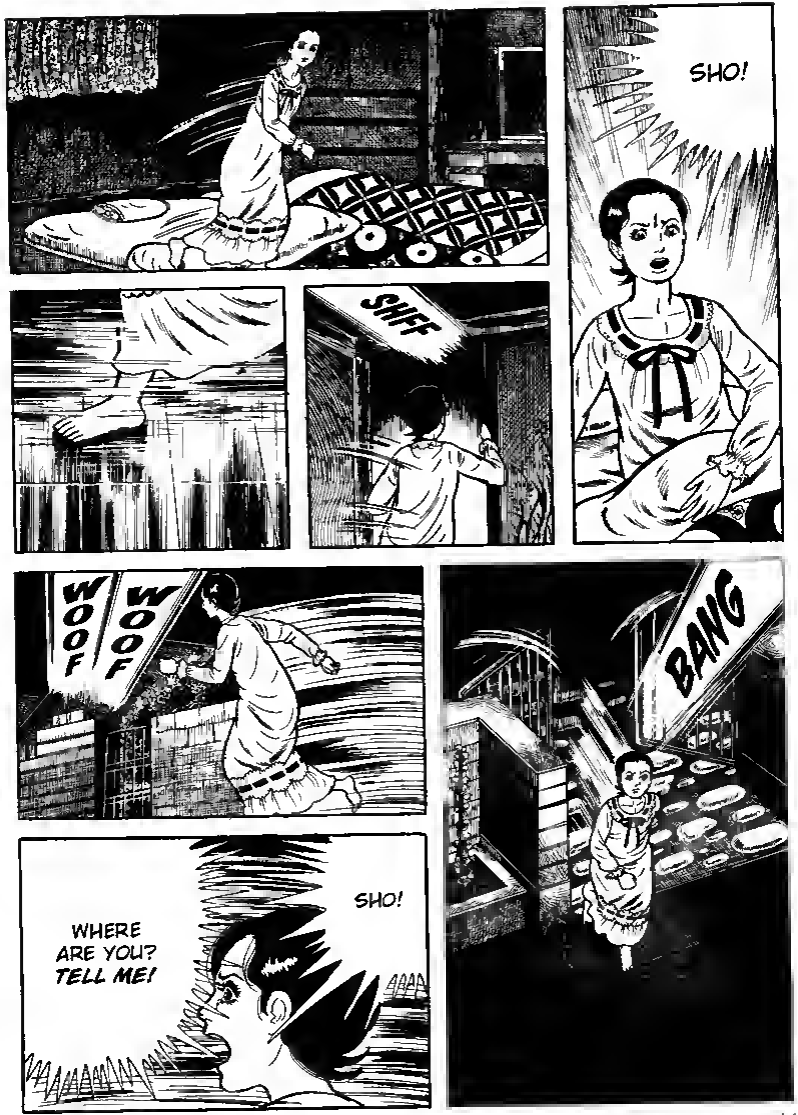
SH... SHO...!

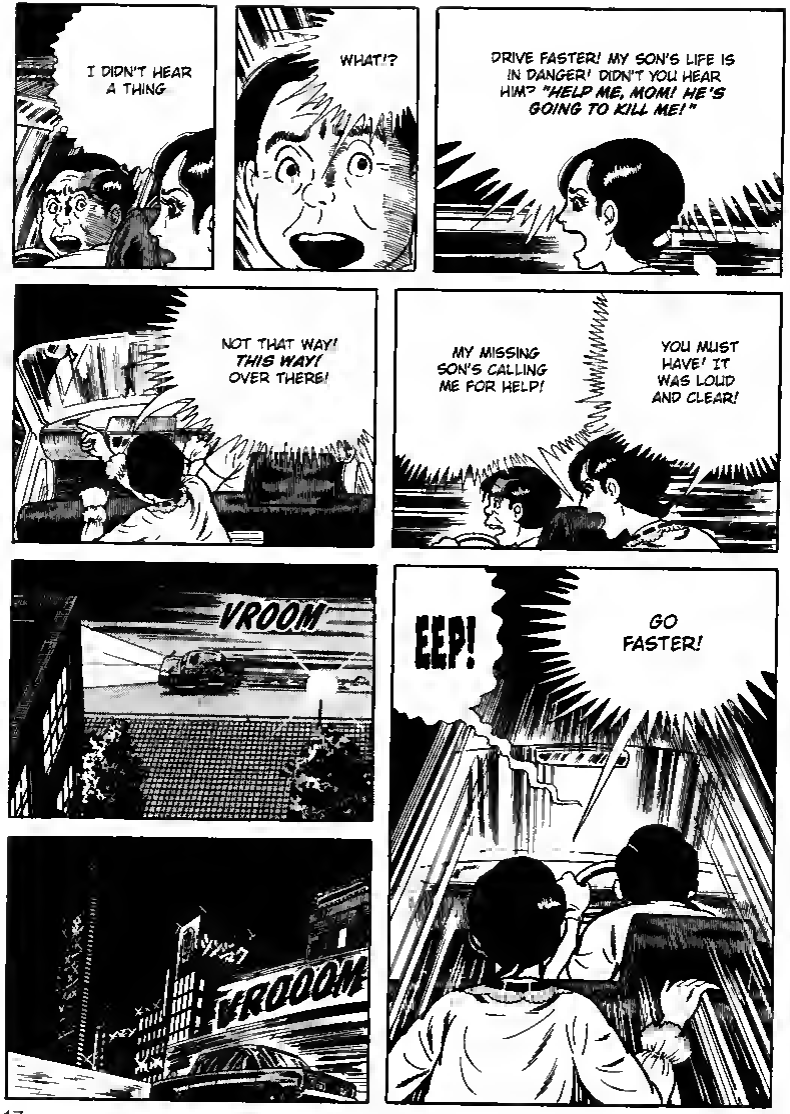
MOM!
MOM!
HELP
ME!


TIK
TIK
TIK

SHO...
NNHH...

HELP ME!
HELP ME!
HELP ME, MOM!
WHERE ARE YOU!?
SHO!
SKREE
SLAM
I HEARD HIM! THAT'S HIS VOICE! HE'S OVER THERE!


SHO!
SHFF
WOOF
WOOF
BANG
WHERE ARE YOU? TELL ME!
SHO!

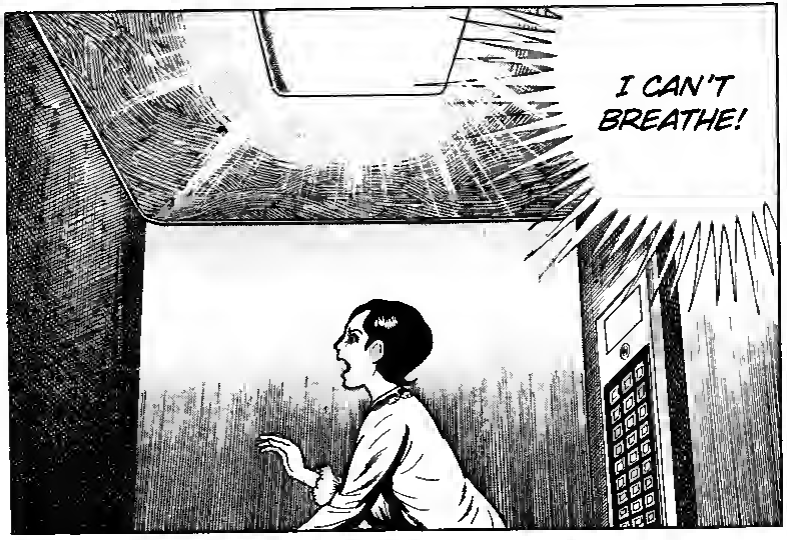

I DIDN'T HEAR A THING
WHAT!?
DRIVE FASTER! MY SON'S LIFE IS IN DANGER! DIDN'T YOU HEAR HIM? "HELP ME, MOM! HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!"
NOT THAT WAY! THIS WAY! OVER THERE!
MY MISSING SON'S CALLING ME FOR HELP!
YOU MUST HAVE! IT WAS LOUD AND CLEAR!
VROOM
EEP!
GO FASTER!
VROOOM

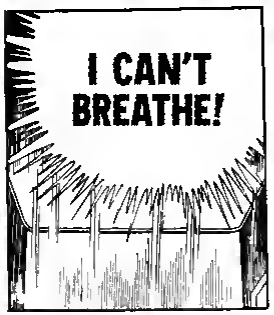
THAT WAY'S SHINJUKU WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
QUICK! GO THAT WAY!
VROOM
TAXI
YES, MA'AM!
JUST DRIVE!
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!
RRR-
HELP ME!
HELP ME, MOM!
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MA'AM?
SHO!

HE MUST BE HERE! THE VOICE CAME FROM HIGH UP!
SHO!
O-OVER THERE!
WHERE'S THE ELEVATOR!?
SHFF

SKREE
STOP HERE!
VROOOM
SLAM
HEY, YOU HAVEN'T PAID!
GGHH
SHO!
I CAN'T BREATHE..!

SHFF


I CAN'T BREATHE!


I CAN'T BREATHE!

WWMMM

SHO, WHERE ARE YOU!? I'M COMING!

KABAM
SHFF

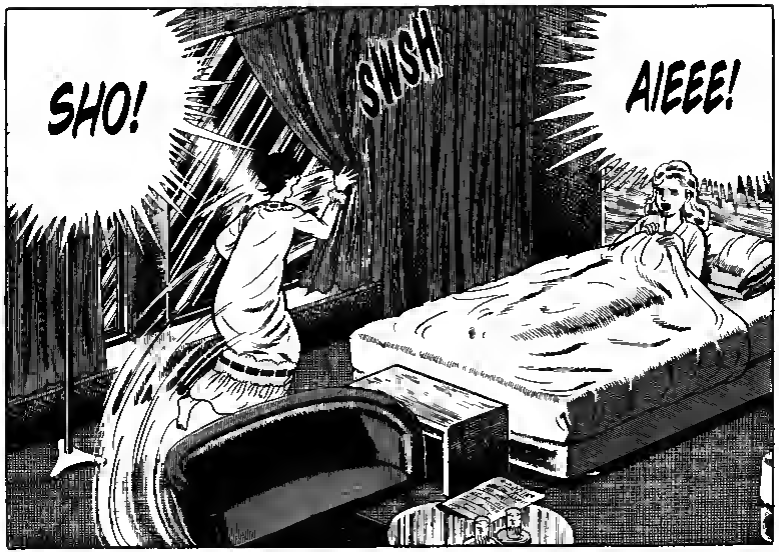
GGGHHH...
SHO!

GGHH

THERE YOU ARE!
GGGHHH

SHO!

YOU MUST BE TRAPPED!
GGHH


SHO!
SWSH
AIEEE!

WHERE'S SHO!?

KRRK
WHERE IS HE!?

KLATA

HELP ME, MOM!
4225

TUMP TUMP
PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR!

TUMP TUMP
OPEN UP!
4225

WHAT'S GOING ON? DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
KRRK
4225

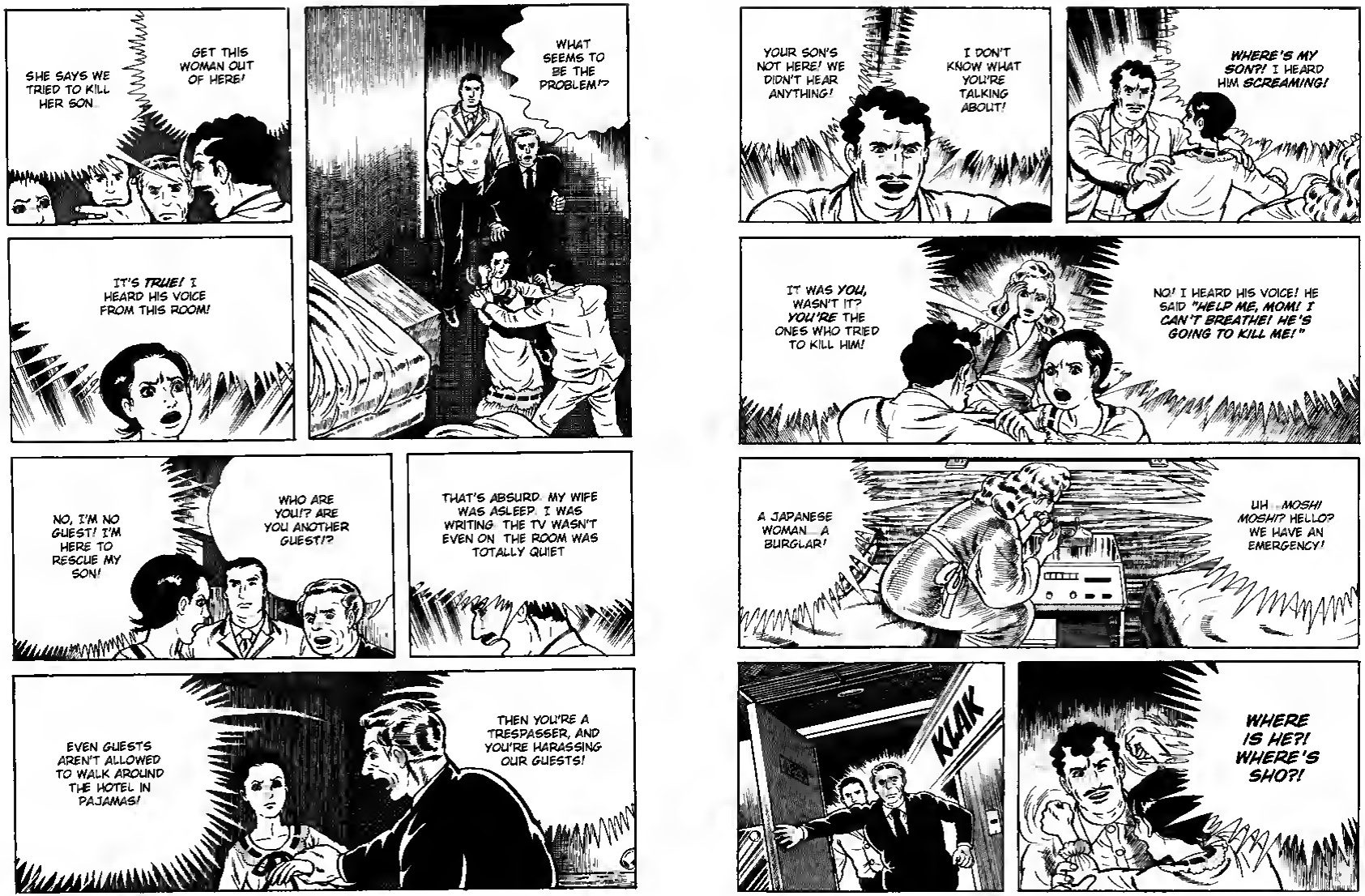
4225
SHO!

SHO!
HEY!

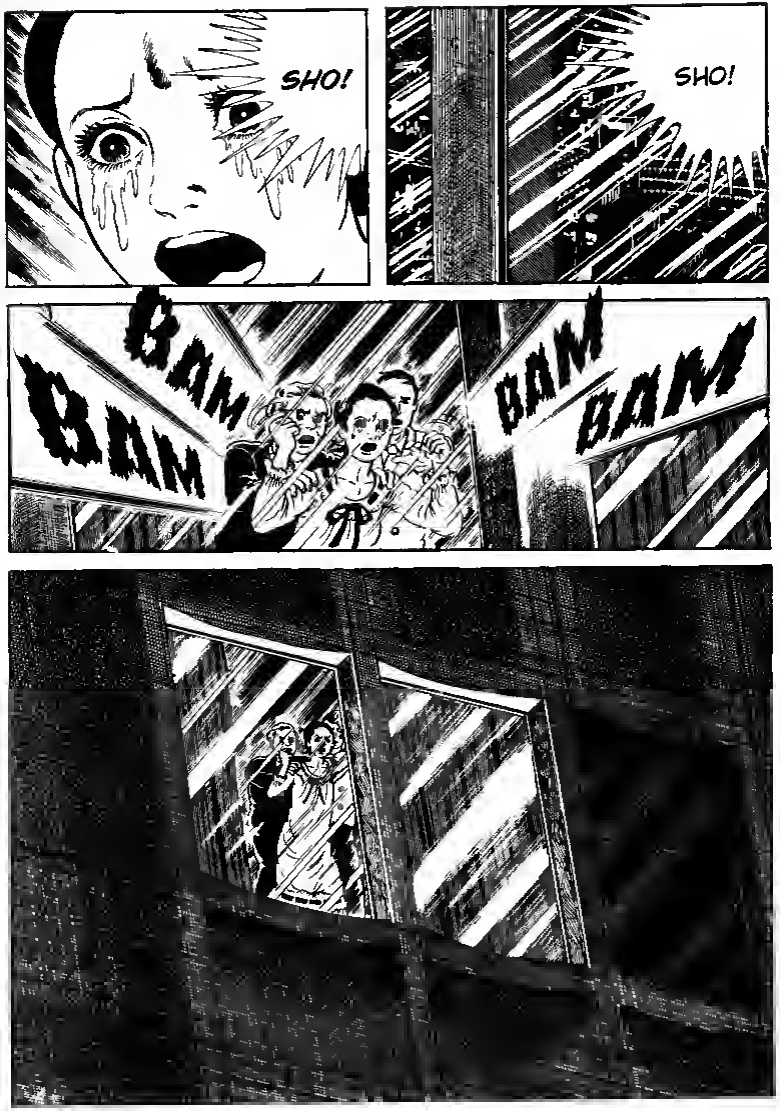
I WANT MY SON BACK!
4225

WHERE'D YOU HIDE HIM!?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO SHO? YOU HID HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW DARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EEEK!
FSH
AIEEE!
AAGHH!

H-HELP ME!
AGGGH!
YOU KIDNAPPED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?! BOTH OF YOU!
WHERE IS HE!?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
LET GO OF HER!

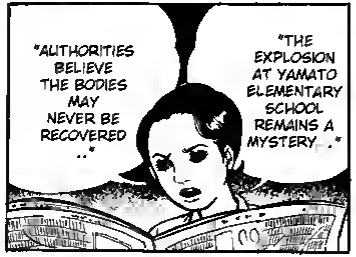

YOUR SON'S NOT HERE! WE DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
WHERE'S MY SON?! I HEARD HIM SCREAMING!
IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT? YOU'RE THE ONES WHO TRIED TO KILL HIM!
NO! I HEARD HIS VOICE! HE SAID "HELP ME, MOM! I CAN'T BREATHE! HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!"
A JAPANESE WOMAN... A BURGLAR!
UH... MOSHI MOSHI? HELLO? WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY!
KLAK
WHERE IS HE?! WHERE'S SHO?!
SHE SAYS WE TRIED TO KILL HER SON...
GET THIS WOMAN OUT OF HERE!
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM!?
IT'S TRUE! I HEARD HIS VOICE FROM THIS ROOM!
NO, I'M NO GUEST! I'M HERE TO RESCUE MY SON!
WHO ARE YOU!? ARE YOU ANOTHER GUEST!?
THAT'S ABSURD. MY WIFE WAS ASLEEP. I WAS WRITING. THE TV WASN'T EVEN ON. THE ROOM WAS TOTALLY QUIET
EVEN GUESTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO WALK AROUND THE HOTEL IN PAJAMAS!
THEN YOU'RE A TRESPASSER, AND YOU'RE HARASSING OUR GUESTS!

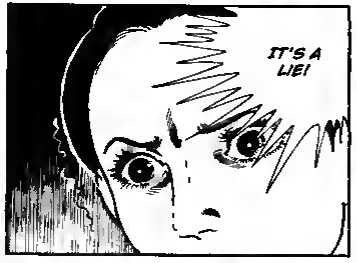
LET GO OF ME!
I DON'T CARE! I HAVE TO FIND MY SON! HE'S CALLING FOR HELP!
SHO!
HEY!
ANSWER ME!
WHERE ARE YOU?

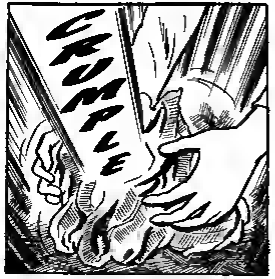

SHO!
SHO!
BAM BAM
BAM BAM

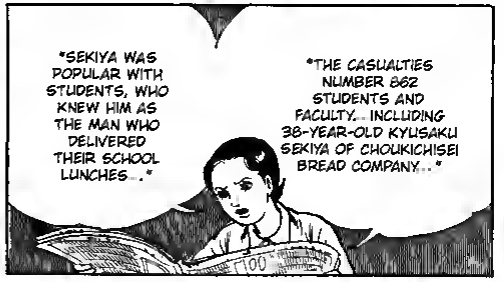
I'M SO SORRY. PLEASE FORGIVE US...
IT'S TRUE. I REALLY HEARD SHO'S VOICE!
WE CAN'T. THEY'D RECOGNIZE US IMMEDIATELY THEY EVEN HAVE OUR ADDRESS! WE'LL BE ARRESTED IF WE GO BACK...
PLEASE TAKE ME BACK TO THAT ROOM!
BUT THEN IT STOPPED! BUT IT MIGHT COME BACK!
SOB...!
BUT WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT SHO!
BESIDES, THERE WAS NOTHING THERE

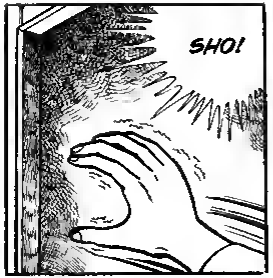
*SIGN=TAKAMATSU

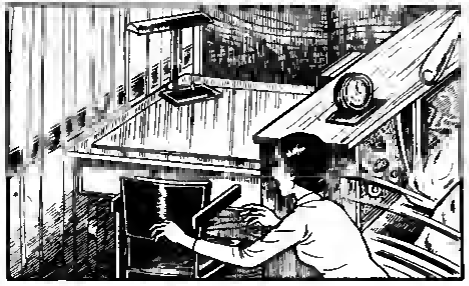




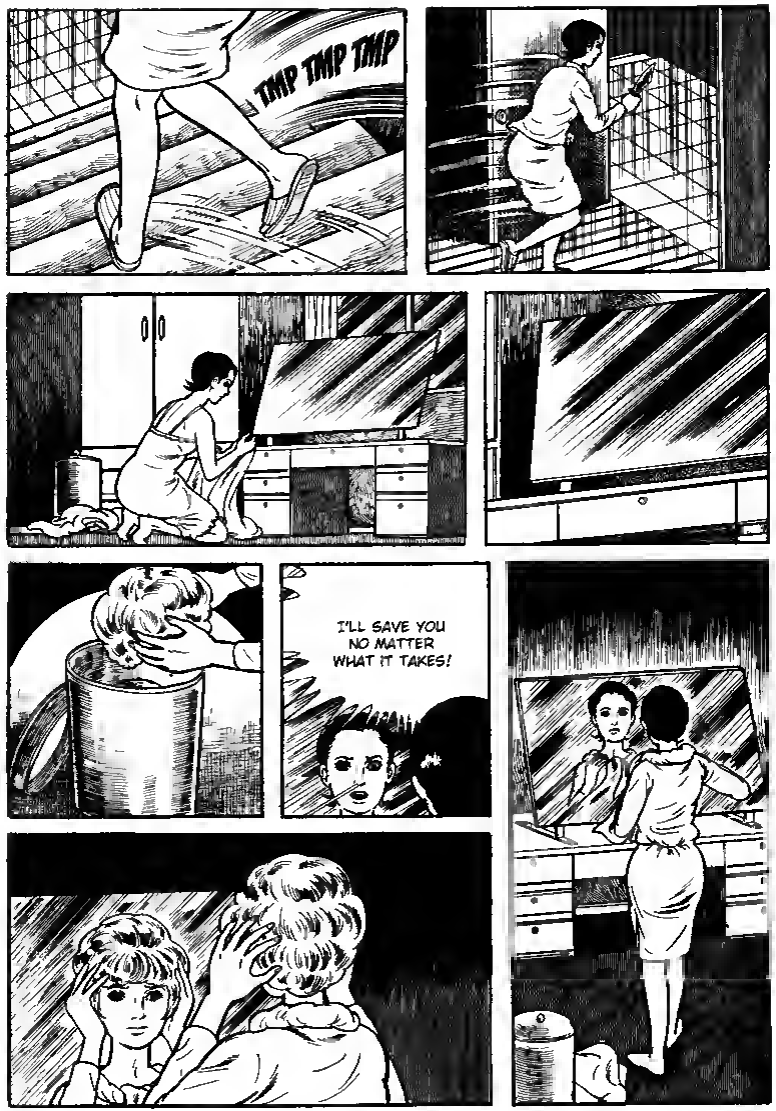



"SEKIYA WAS POPULAR WITH STUDENTS, WHO KNEW HIM AS THE MAN WHO DELIVERED THEIR SCHOOL LUNCHES..."
"THE CASUALTIES NUMBER 862 STUDENTS AND FACULTY... INCLUDING 38-YEAR-OLD KYUSAKU SEKIYA OF CHOUKICHISEI BREAD COMPANY..."

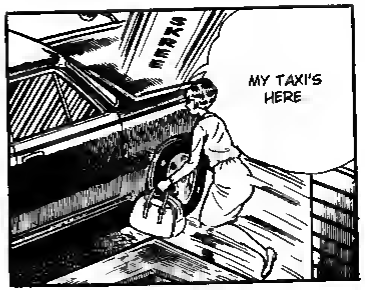


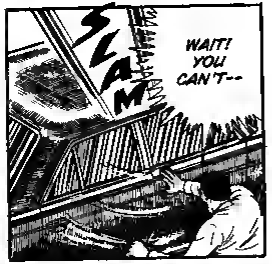


THERE IT IS!
I WAS GOING TO THROW IT AWAY WITH THE REST OF HIS JUNK...
SHO LOVED THIS KNIFE .. AND I SCOLDED HIM FOR IT... I TOLD HIM HOW DANGEROUS IT WAS TO KEEP IT IN HIS ROOM...
...BUT NOW YOU MUST NEED THIS...
WHEN YOU LEFT YOU SAID YOU'D NEVER COME BACK...
SOB...!


TMP TMP TMP
I'LL SAVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!

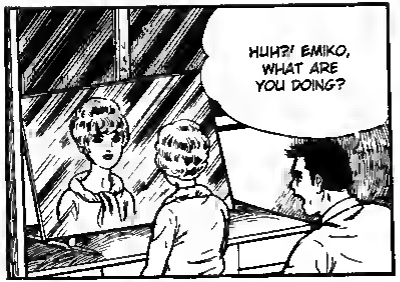
NO!
STOP!


BRRRM
MY TAXI'S HERE

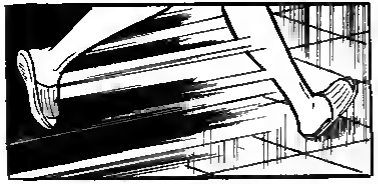

SLAM
WAIT! YOU CAN'T--

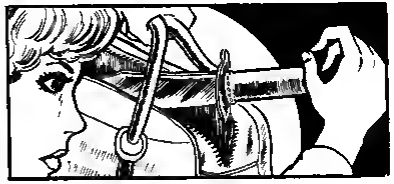
I WON'T BE COMING HOME TONIGHT. I MIGHT BE OUT FOR A FEW DAYS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. JUST GO TO WORK.
I WITHDREW 100,000 YEN FROM OUR ACCOUNT.

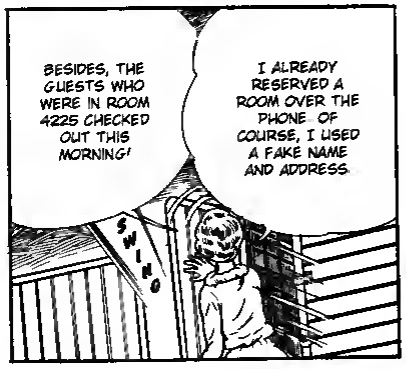
VROOM


HUH?! EMIKO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

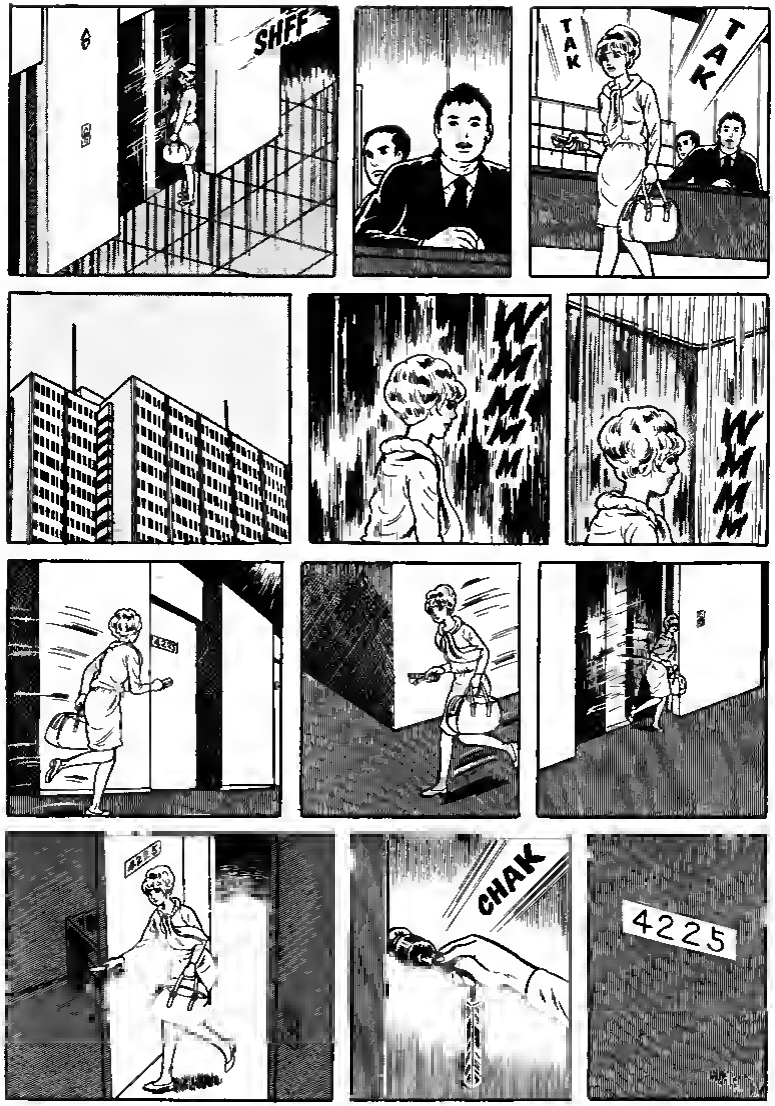
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT? WHAT'S IN THAT BAG?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT KNIFE?

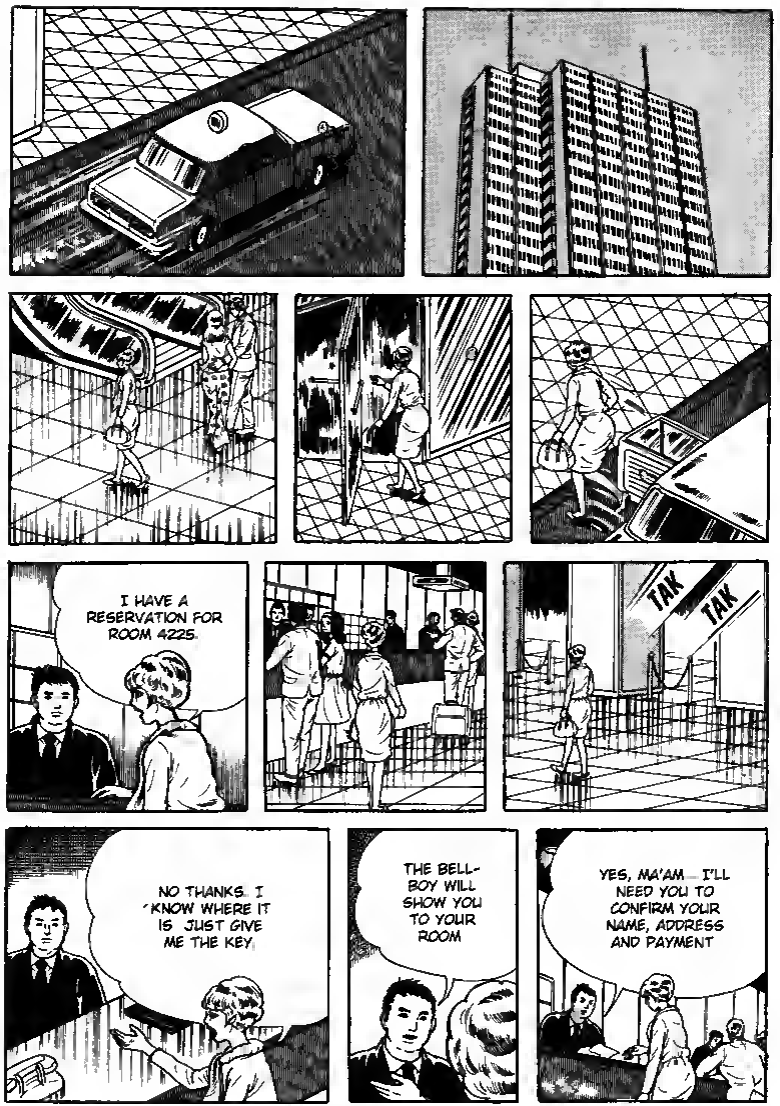


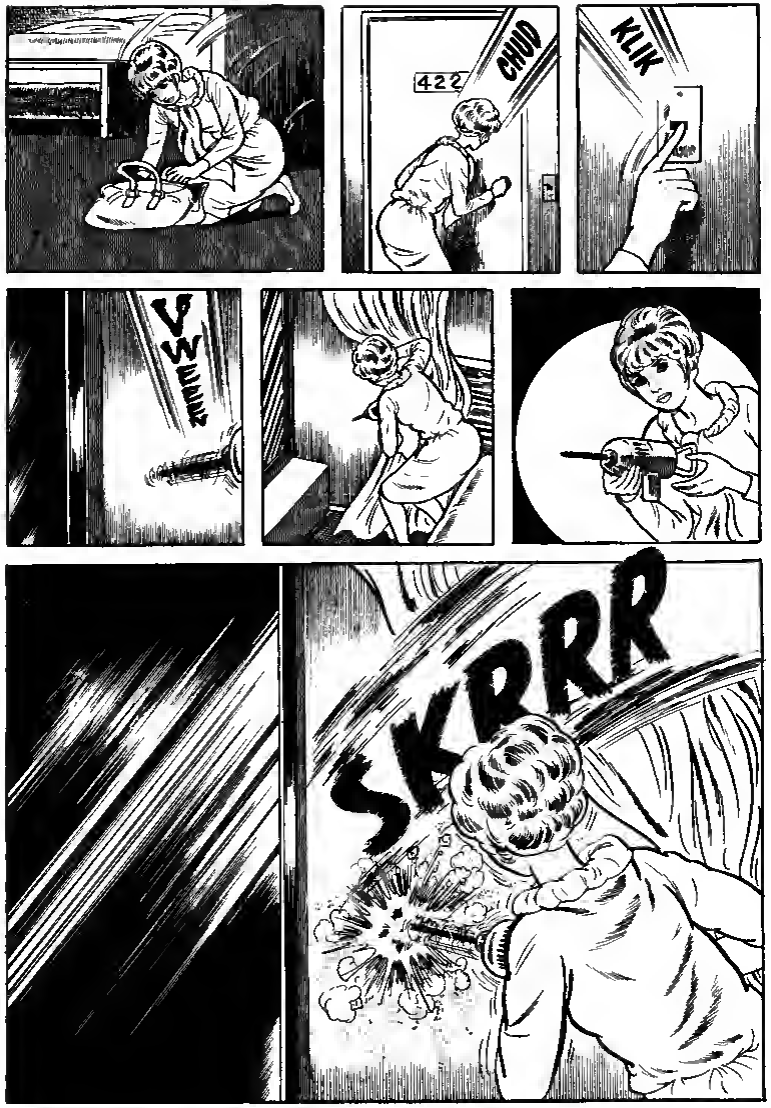



BESIDES, THE GUESTS WHO WERE IN ROOM 4225 CHECKED OUT THIS MORNING!
I ALREADY RESERVED A ROOM OVER THE PHONE. OF COURSE, I USED A FAKE NAME AND ADDRESS.
SWING

THEY WON'T RECOGNIZE ME IN THIS WIG AND MAKEUP.
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALL NIGHT! I NEED TO GO TO THAT HOTEL AND RESCUE SHO!

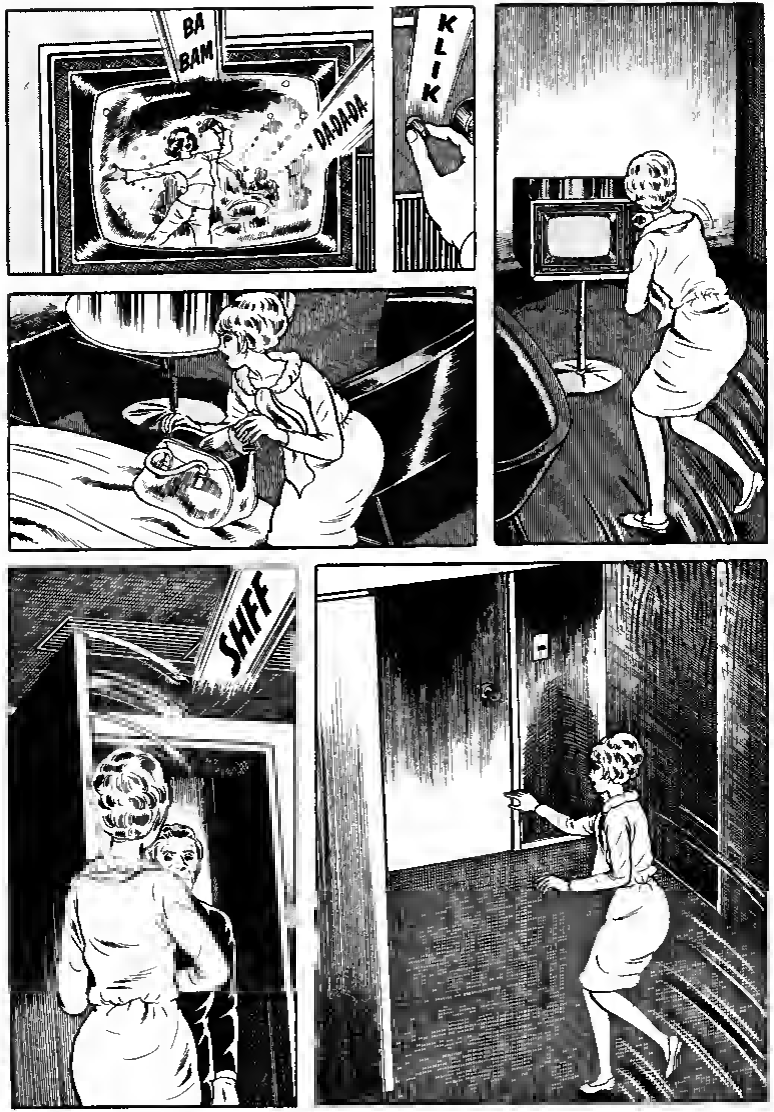

SHFF
TAK
TAK
4225
CHAK
4225


I HAVE A RESERVATION FOR ROOM 4225.
TAK
TAK
NO THANKS. I KNOW WHERE IT IS. JUST GIVE ME THE KEY.
THE BELL-BOY WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM
YES, MA'AM... I'LL NEED YOU TO CONFIRM YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PAYMENT


422
CHUD
KLIK
VWEEEE
SKRRR

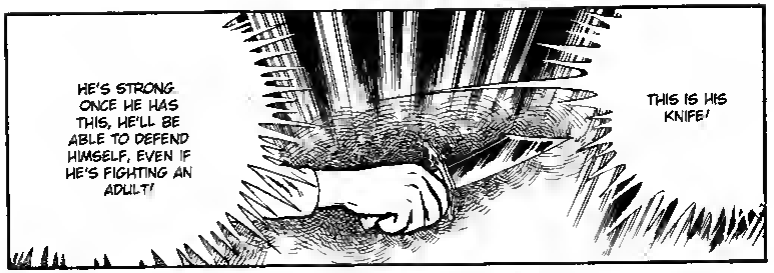
SKRRRR
422
DING DONG
RRRR
SWIP
RRRR
THAT WAS THE BELL!

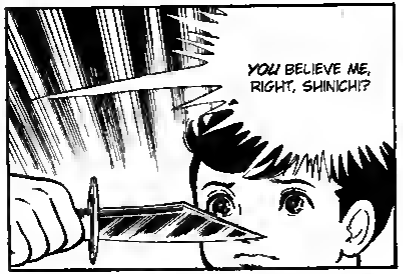
FROM THE GUESTS NEXT DOOR...
WE RECEIVED A NOISE COMPLAINT...
YES?
I DON'T SEE WHY YOU WOULD... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE STAYED HERE
HM?
I SEE. YOU LOOK VERY FAMILIAR... DO I KNOW YOU?
I'M SO SORRY. I JUST REALIZED HOW LOUD THE TV WAS, SO I TURNED IT DOWN A MOMENT AGO.
CHUD
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE. I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL.
HELLO?
DIAL
DIAL

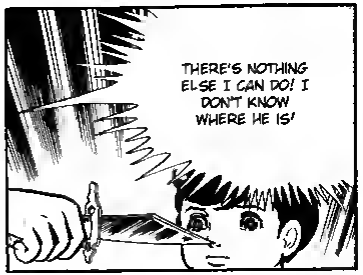

BA BAM
DADADA
KLIK
SHFT

SHINICHI!!
DING DONG
THANK YOU, SHINICHI! SOB...
O-OF COURSE.. I WANT TO HELP SHO TOO
THANK YOU SO MUCH! THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING ME!
SOB..!
WHAT!?
BUT HE'S ABOUT TO BE KILLED!
LISTEN TO ME, SHINICHI! SHO IS ALIVE SOMEWHERE!
SLAM!
QUICK, COME IN!
ALL I CAN DO IS GIVE HIM THIS!
IF I COULD RESCUE HIM I WOULD! BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS!

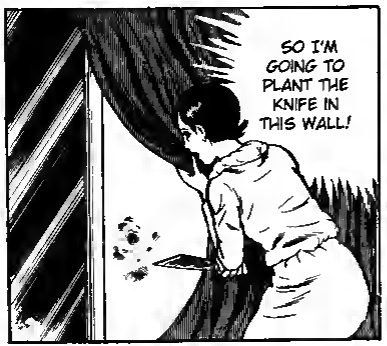
LISTEN, SHINICHI, I NEED YOUR HELP! I NEED YOU TO GO SOMEWHERE! PLEASE!
HELLO, SHINICHI? THIS IS SHO'S MOTHER.
HELLO, IS THIS THE YAMADA RESIDENCE? MAY I SPEAK TO SHINICHI?
YOU'RE HIS FRIEND, SO I KNOW YOU'LL UNDERSTAND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN CALL.
I NEED YOU TO HELP ME SAVE SHO!
JUST COME HERE ON YOUR OWN! NOT A WORD TO ANYONE!
PLEASE DON'T TELL YOUR PARENTS, OKAY?
...BUT I CAN'T ASK ANYONE ELSE!
I KNOW IT MUST SOUND WEIRD FOR ME TO ASK A BOY FOR HELP.
I HOPE HE DOESN'T TELL ANYONE...
HE SAID HE'D COME, BUT WILL HE...?
CHAK

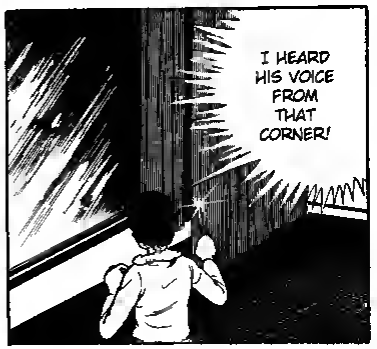

HE'S STRONG. ONCE HE HAS THIS, HE'LL BE ABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF, EVEN IF HE'S FIGHTING AN ADULT!
THIS IS HIS KNIFE!

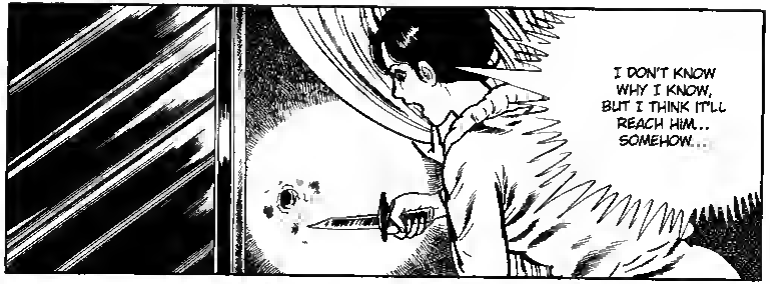

YOU BELIEVE ME, RIGHT, SHINICHI?


THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO! I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS!

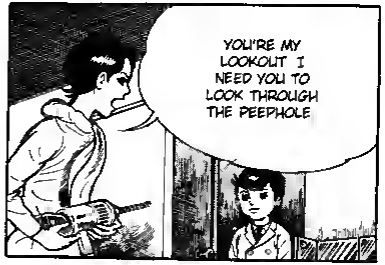
Y-YES...!


SO I'M GOING TO PLANT THE KNIFE IN THIS WALL!


I HEARD HIS VOICE FROM THAT CORNER!

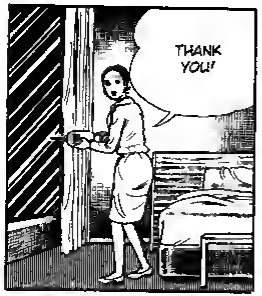

I DON'T KNOW WHY I KNOW, BUT I THINK IT'LL REACH HIM... SOMEHOW...

TELL ME IF YOU SEE ANY HOTEL STAFF OR ANYONE COMING OR GOING FROM THE OTHER ROOMS.


YOU'RE MY LOOKOUT. I NEED YOU TO LOOK THROUGH THE PEEPHOLE

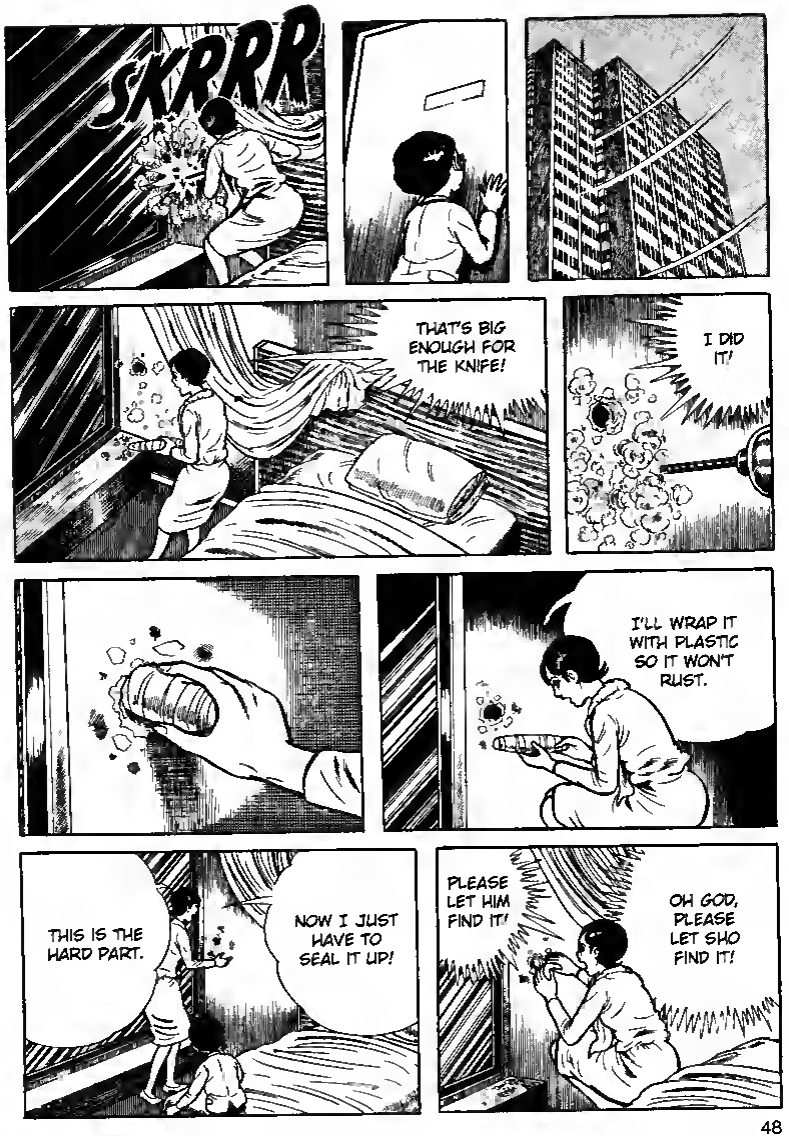
I'LL PRETEND I HAVE THE WRONG ROOM. THEY'LL THINK I'M JUST SOME DUMB KID.
I'LL SEE HOW MANY GUESTS THERE ARE IN THE OTHER ROOMS

O-OKAY, I'LL DO IT!

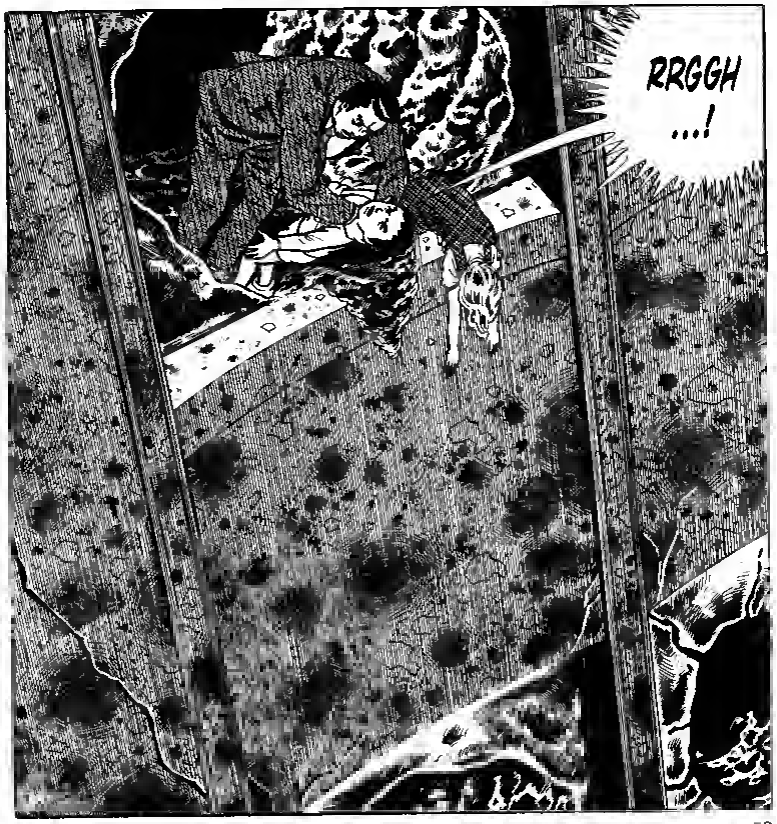

THANK YOU!

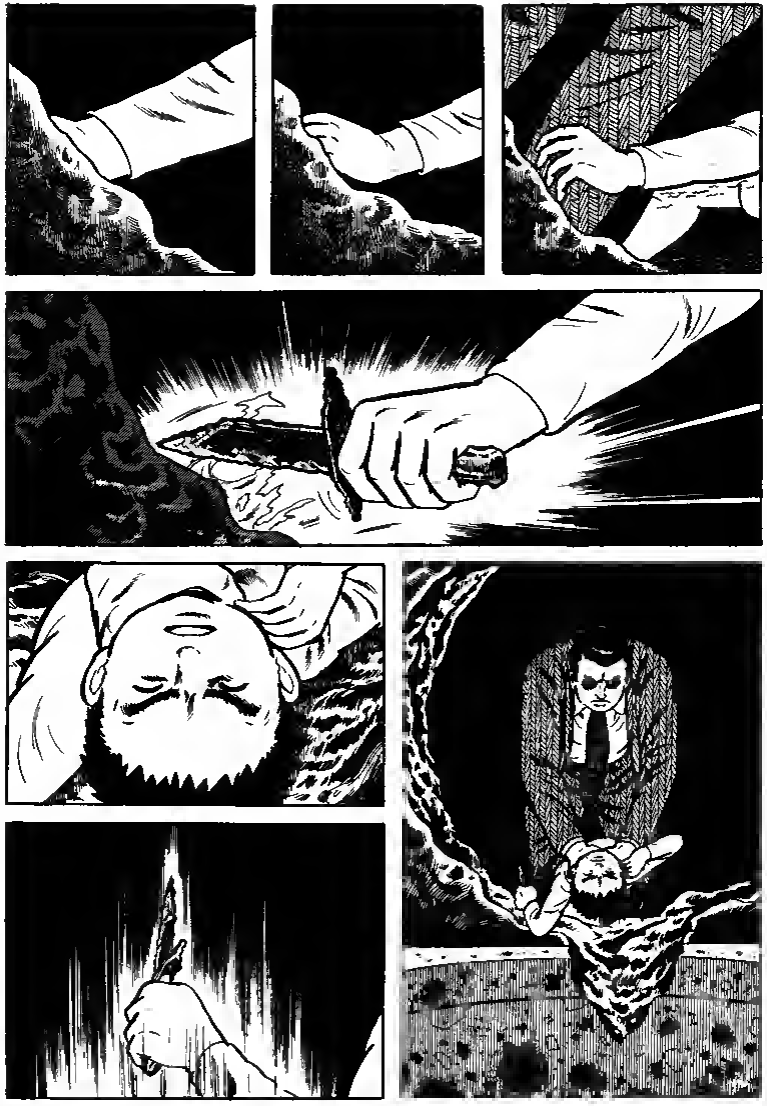
KREEK

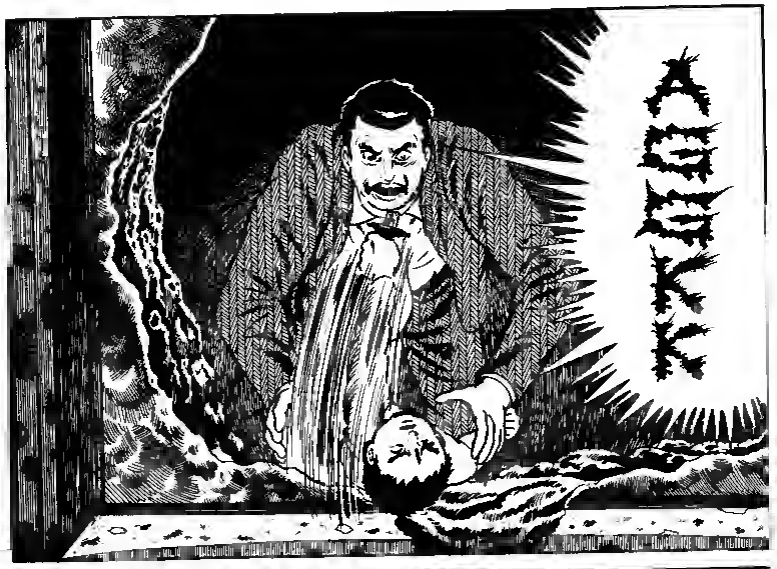
I WONDER WHERE HE IS... IF HE'S ALL RIGHT...
IT'S ALREADY DARK.
FINALLY!
THANK YOU, SHINICHI.
SOB... SOB...
I'M SORRY, MRS. TAKAMATSU.
OH, SHO..!
I'LL LEAVE THEM A GOOD TIP WHEN I PAY THE BILL!
I'M GOING TO STAY HERE UNTIL THE PLASTER DRIES, AND MAKE SURE THE HOLE IS INVISIBLE.
CHUD
I BELIEVE YOU, MRS. TAKAMATSU! GOODBYE!

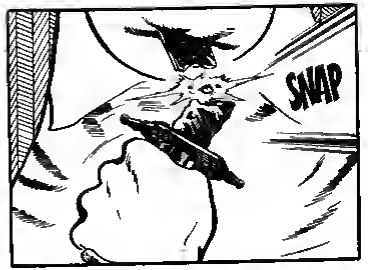

SKRRR
THAT'S BIG ENOUGH FOR THE KNIFE!
I DID IT!
I'LL WRAP IT WITH PLASTIC SO IT WON'T RUST.
THIS IS THE HARD PART.
NOW I JUST HAVE TO SEAL IT UP!
PLEASE LET HIM FIND IT!
OH GOD, PLEASE LET SHO FIND IT!

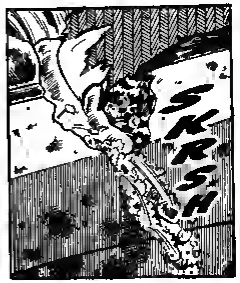
NNRRGGH
...!

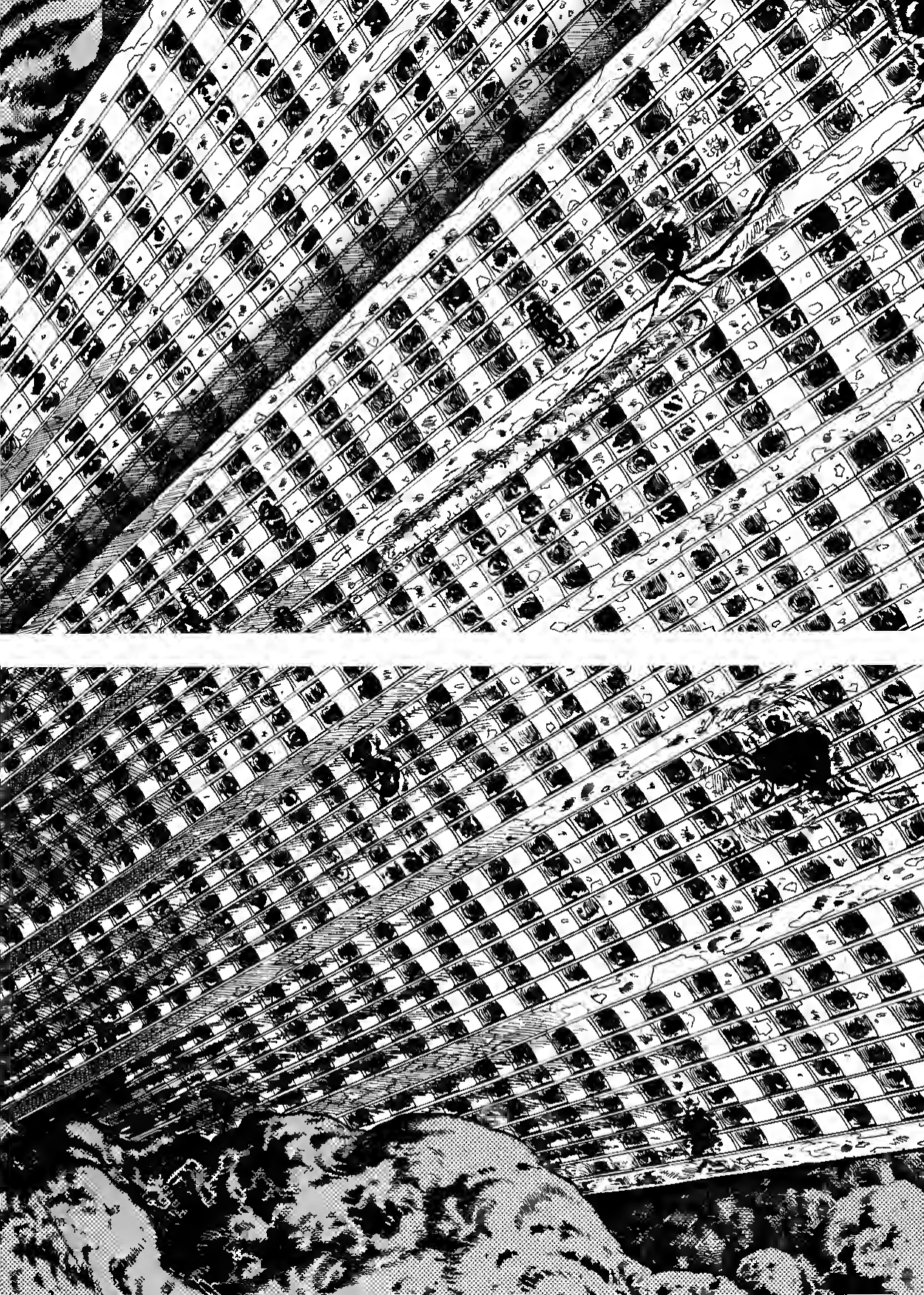

RRGGH
...!




A CUT OFF NECK

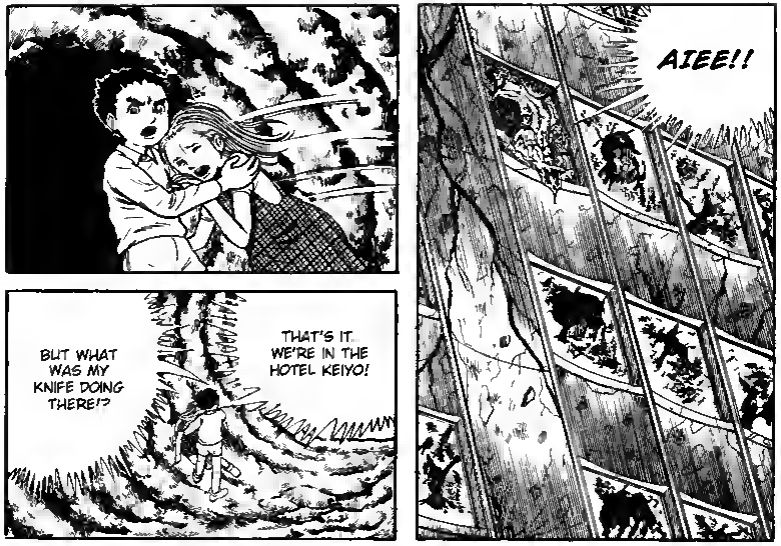

SWAP


SKRSH



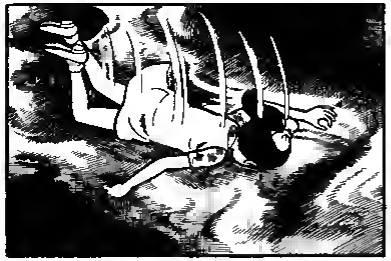
MR. WAKAHARA!
MR. WAKAHARA!
I WAS DREAMING!
HE'S GONE! ARE WE SAFE?
HUH?

SHE WENT TO THIS HOTEL, THE HOTEL KEIYO, AND SHE BURIED YOUR KNIFE IN THE WALL! I SAW THE NUMBER ON THE DOOR! IT WAS ROOM 4225!
YOUR MOTHER WAS THERE! SHE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
I HAD SUCH A STRANGE DREAM I WAS BACK IN OUR NORMAL WORLD...
OH!
WHAT!?
IT'S FALLEN TO PIECES, BUT I KNOW IT'S MINE!
THIS IS MY KNIFE!
WH... WHERE ARE WE!?


AIEE!!
BUT WHAT WAS MY KNIFE DOING THERE!?
THAT'S IT. WE'RE IN THE HOTEL KEIYO!
DID NISHI'S DREAM REALLY HAPPEN...?
HOW...?
SO THIS REALLY IS THE FUTURE!
UNBELIEVABLE

THEY MUST BE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO US
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON THERE
I'LL SAY THEY ALL DIED IN AN ACCIDENT!
I CAN'T TELL THEM HOW MR WAKAHARA WENT CRAZY AND KILLED EVERYONE!
HEY! IT'S US!
WE'RE BACK!
THERE'S THE SCHOOL!

SHO!



RUN!
STAY AWAY! DON'T COME HERE!

SAKI! WH-WHAT'S WRONG!?

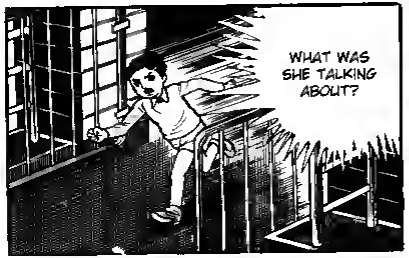
WHAT?! WH-WHY!?
THEY'LL KILL YOU, SHO!

WHO HURT YOU?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

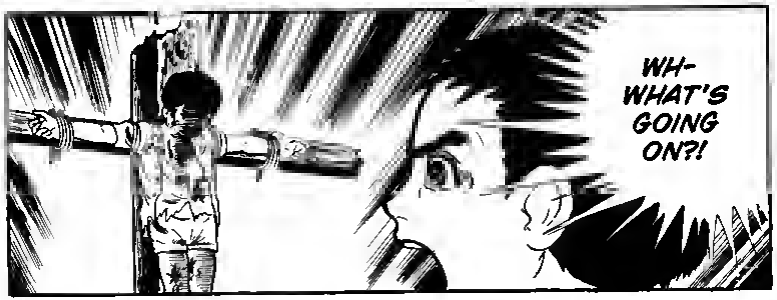
SAKI! SAKI!

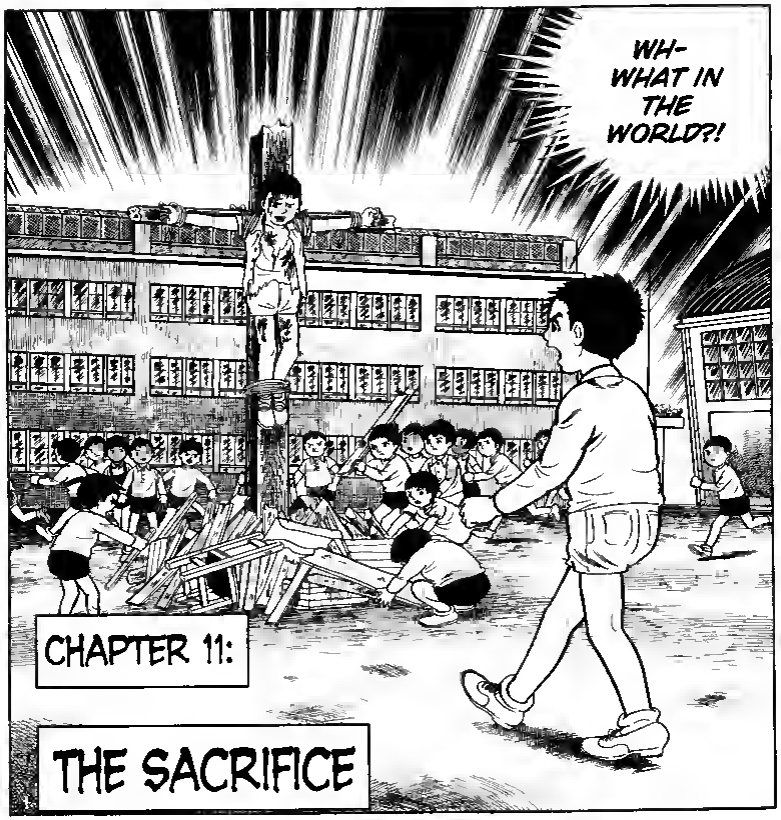
THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THEY'RE CRAZY!
I TRIED TO STOP THEM, BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN!


WHAT WAS SHE TALKING ABOUT?

NISHI, I'LL GO AHEAD! YOU TAKE CARE OF HER!

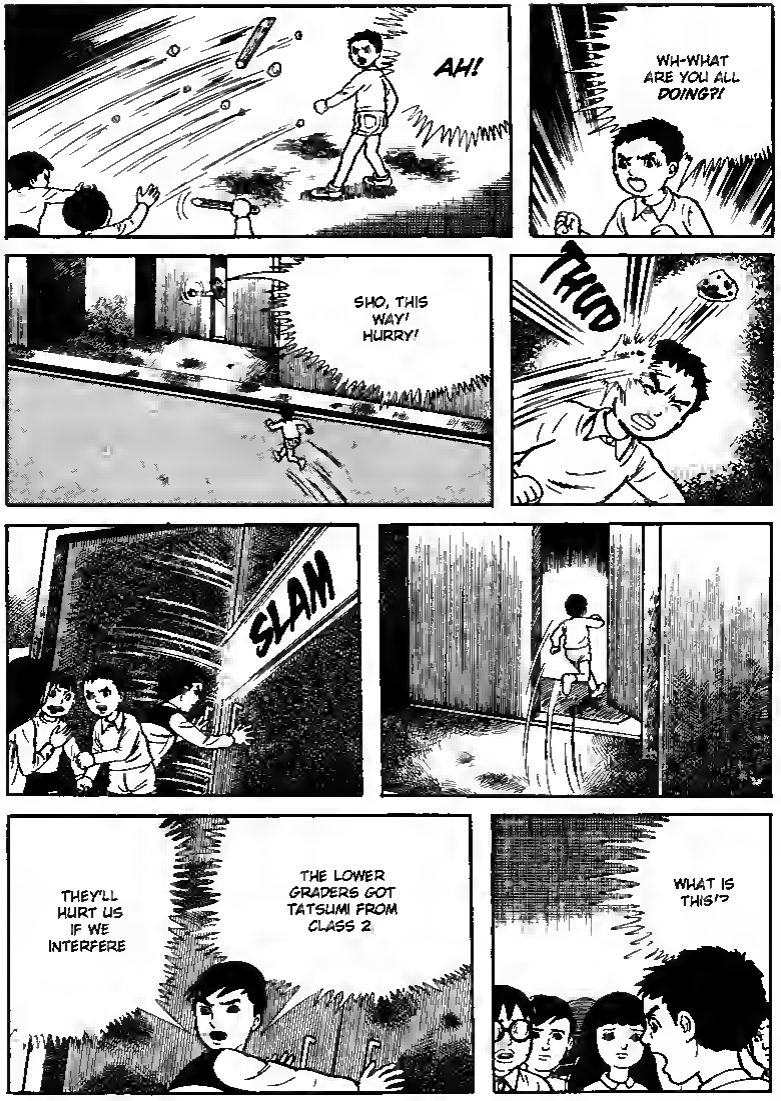
WHA--?!

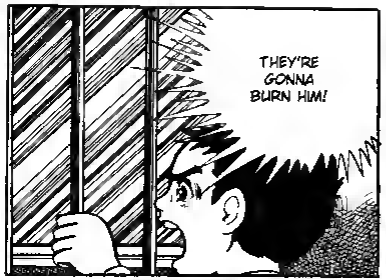

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!


WH-
WHAT IN
THE
WORLD?!
CHAPTER 11:
THE SACRIFICE

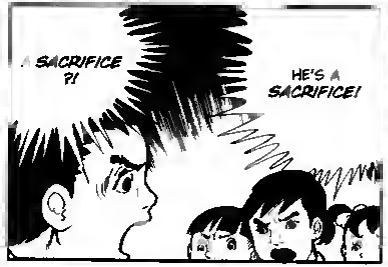
THEY'RE
GOING
TO KILL
ME!
HELP
ME!

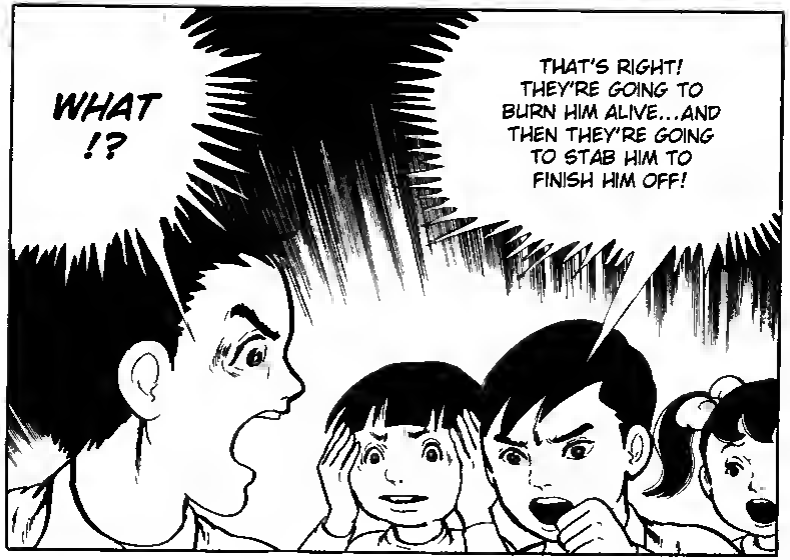
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT STARTED, BUT THERE'S THIS WEIRD RUMOR...
BUT WHY?!
OF COURSE, WE DON'T BELIEVE IT...
UH-HUH!
"WEIRD RUMOR"?
—IS BECAUSE OF ONE BAD STUDENT...
BUT THEY SAY THE REASON THIS IS HAPPENING...
THEY SAY IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF HIM THAT WE'RE TRAPPED HERE AND ALL THIS HORRIBLE STUFF HAS HAPPENED...
WHAT!?

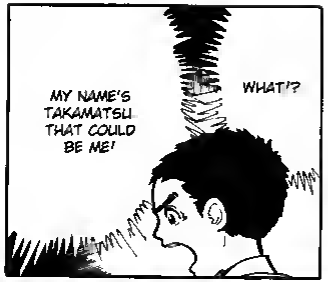

AH!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?!
SHO, THIS WAY! HURRY!
THUD
SLAM
THEY'LL HURT US IF WE INTERFERE
THE LOWER GRADERS GOT TATSUMI FROM CLASS 2.
WHAT IS THIS!?


THEY'RE GONNA BURN HIM!

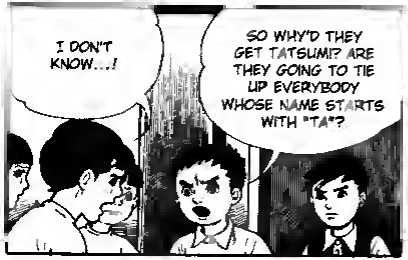
YEEAAA
HELP!
KRAK!
KRAK!

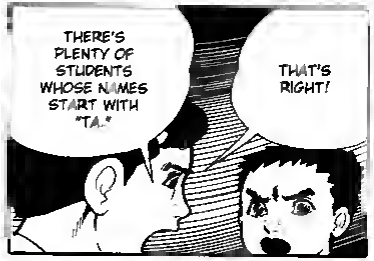

A SACRIFICE ?!
HE'S A SACRIFICE!


WHAT !?
THAT'S RIGHT! THEY'RE GOING TO BURN HIM ALIVE...AND THEN THEY'RE GOING TO STAB HIM TO FINISH HIM OFF!

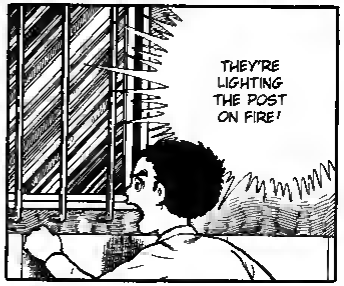

MY NAME'S TAKAMATSU THAT COULD BE ME!
WHAT!?

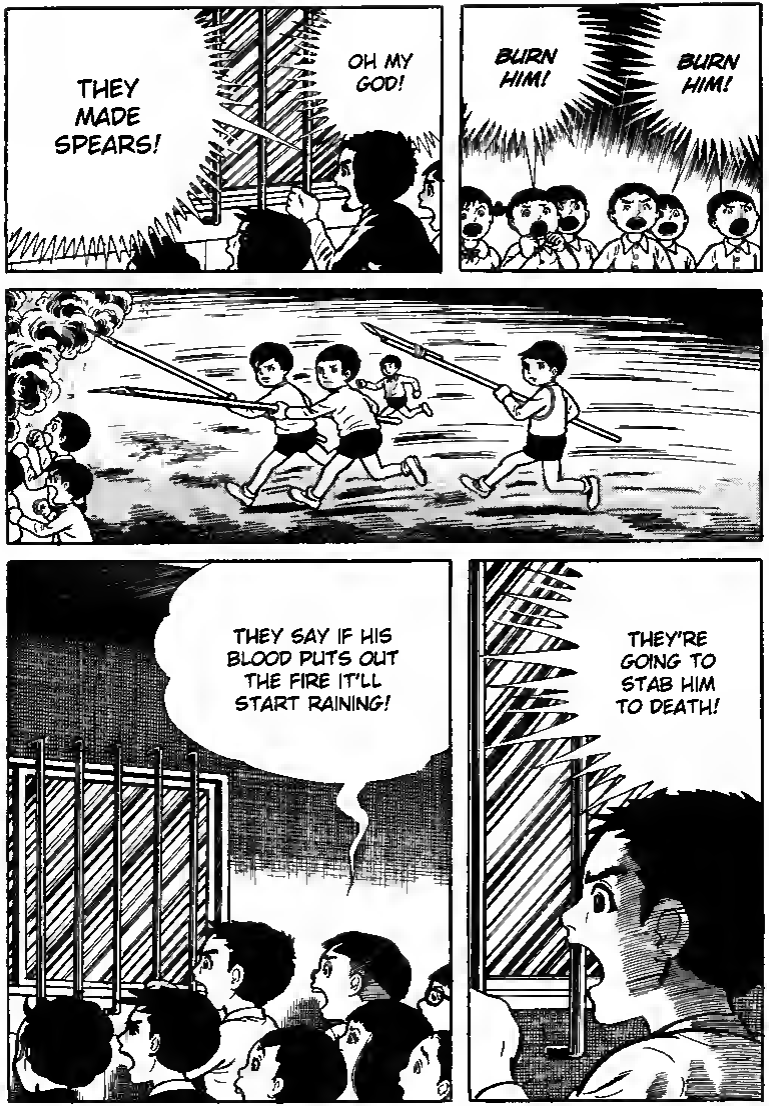
THEY SAY THE BAD GUY'S NAME STARTS WITH "TA."
WHAT? B-BUT WHO...?


I DON'T KNOW...!
SO WHY'D THEY GET TATSUMI? ARE THEY GOING TO TIE UP EVERYBODY WHOSE NAME STARTS WITH "TA"?

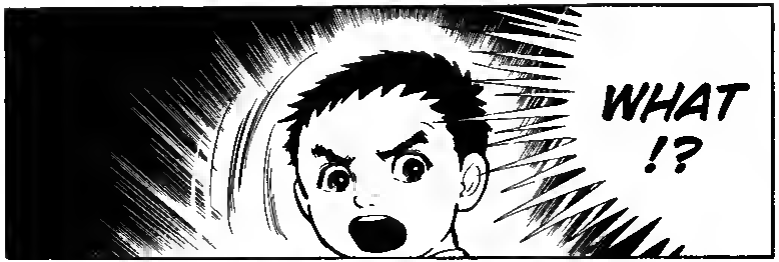

THERE'S PLENTY OF STUDENTS WHOSE NAMES START WITH "TA."
THAT'S RIGHT!

HE ALWAYS PICKED ON EVERYONE NOW'S THEIR CHANCE TO GET BACK AT HIM
TATSUMI WAS THE SCHOOL BULLY.

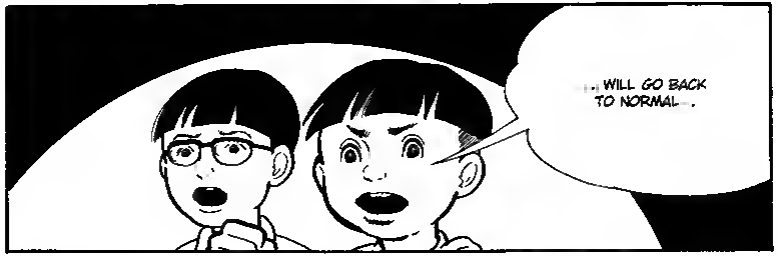

THEY'RE LIGHTING THE POST ON FIRE!


THEY MADE SPEARS!
OH MY GOD!
BURN HIM!
BURN HIM!
THEY SAY IF HIS BLOOD PUTS OUT THE FIRE IT'LL START RAINING!
THEY'RE GOING TO STAB HIM TO DEATH!

KRAK!
KRAK!
AAGHH!


WHAT !?

...AND THE WORLD OUTSIDE THAT'S VANISHED...
THEY THINK IF IT RAINS THEY WON'T STARVE...


...WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL...

TH-THAT'S CRAZY!

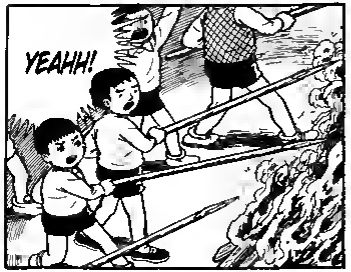
THAT'S LIKE SOME PRIMITIVE SUPERSTITION!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM?

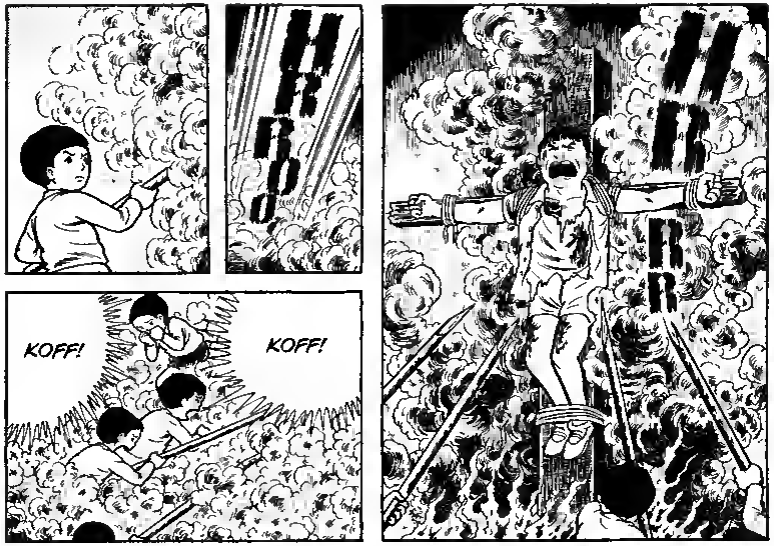
THAT'S NO REASON TO KILL HIM!

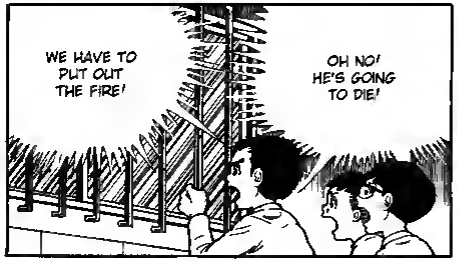
BUT WE REALLY DO NEED RAIN! WE'RE OUT OF WATER!

GYAA!

AGGHH!
GO

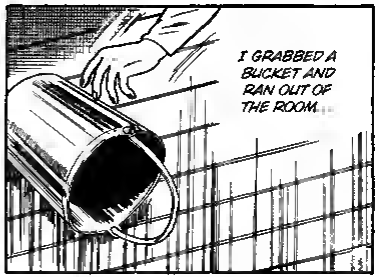

YEAHH!

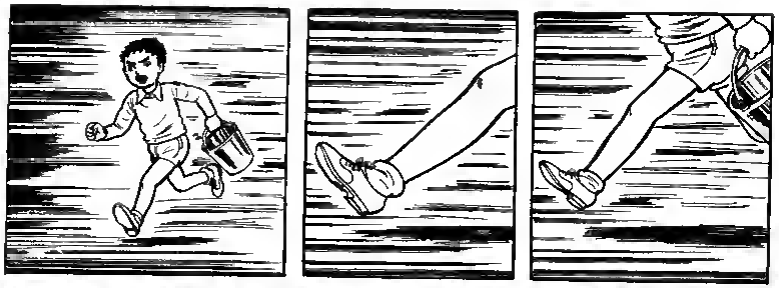

KOFF!
KOFF!

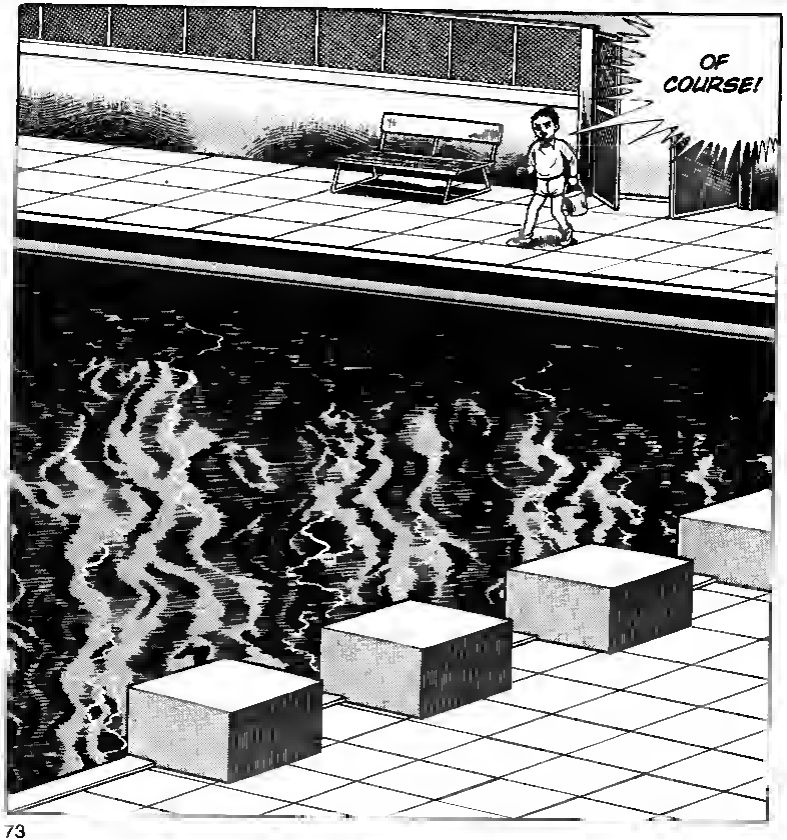

WE HAVE TO PUT OUT THE FIRE!
OH NO! HE'S GOING TO DIE!

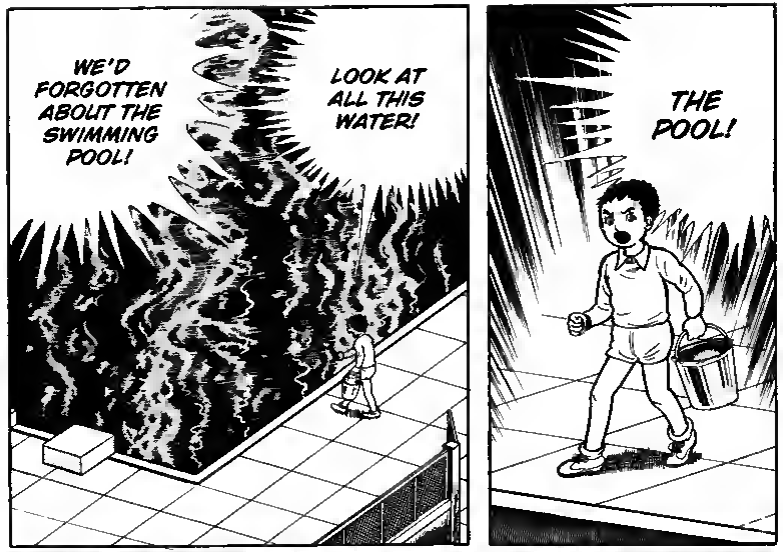
A-HUCK
K...KOFF!
K-KOFF!

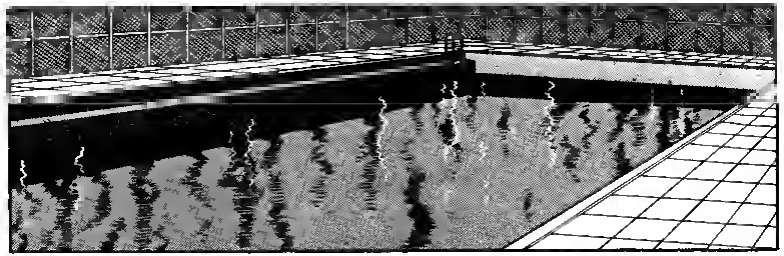
WATER!

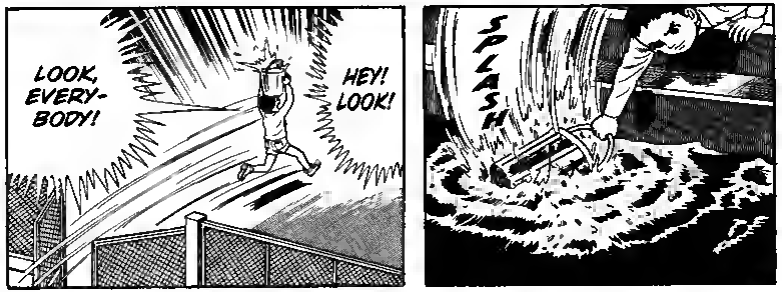

I GRABBED A BUCKET AND RAN OUT OF THE ROOM...

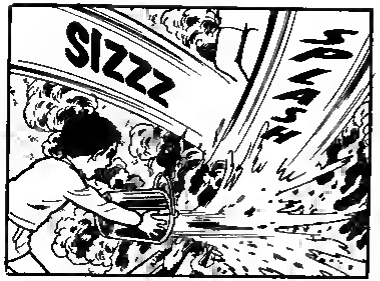


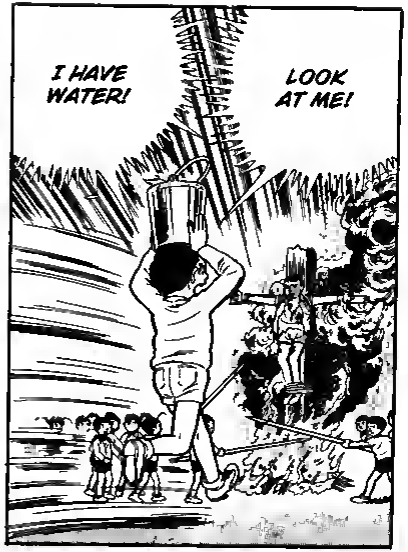

OF COURSE!


WE'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE SWIMMING POOL!
LOOK AT ALL THIS WATER!
THE POOL!

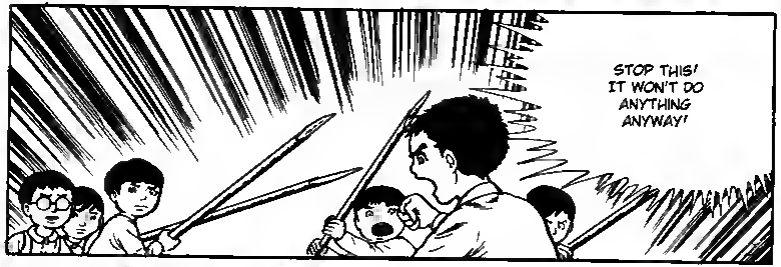


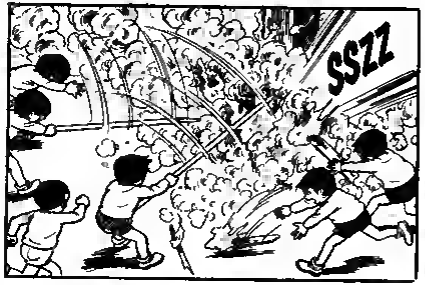

LOOK, EVERY-BODY!
HEY! LOOK!
SPLASH

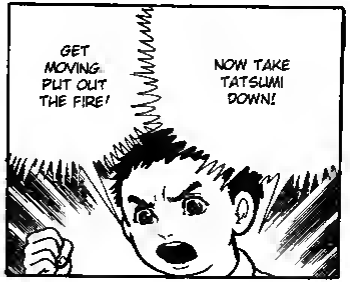

SIZZZ
SPLASH


I HAVE WATER!
LOOK AT ME!

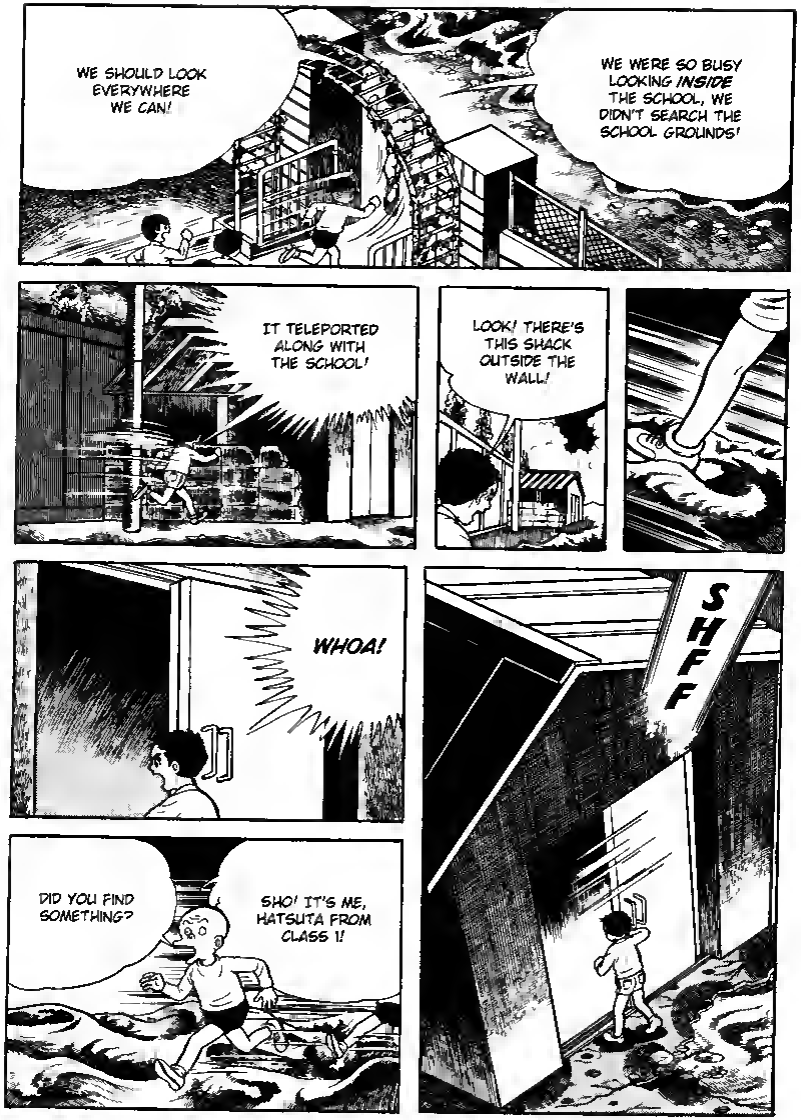
WE'RE OKAY NOW!
THERE'S ENOUGH WATER FOR EVERYONE!


STOP THIS! IT WON'T DO ANYTHING ANYWAY!


SSZZ


GET MOVING. PUT OUT THE FIRE!
NOW TAKE TATSUMI DOWN!

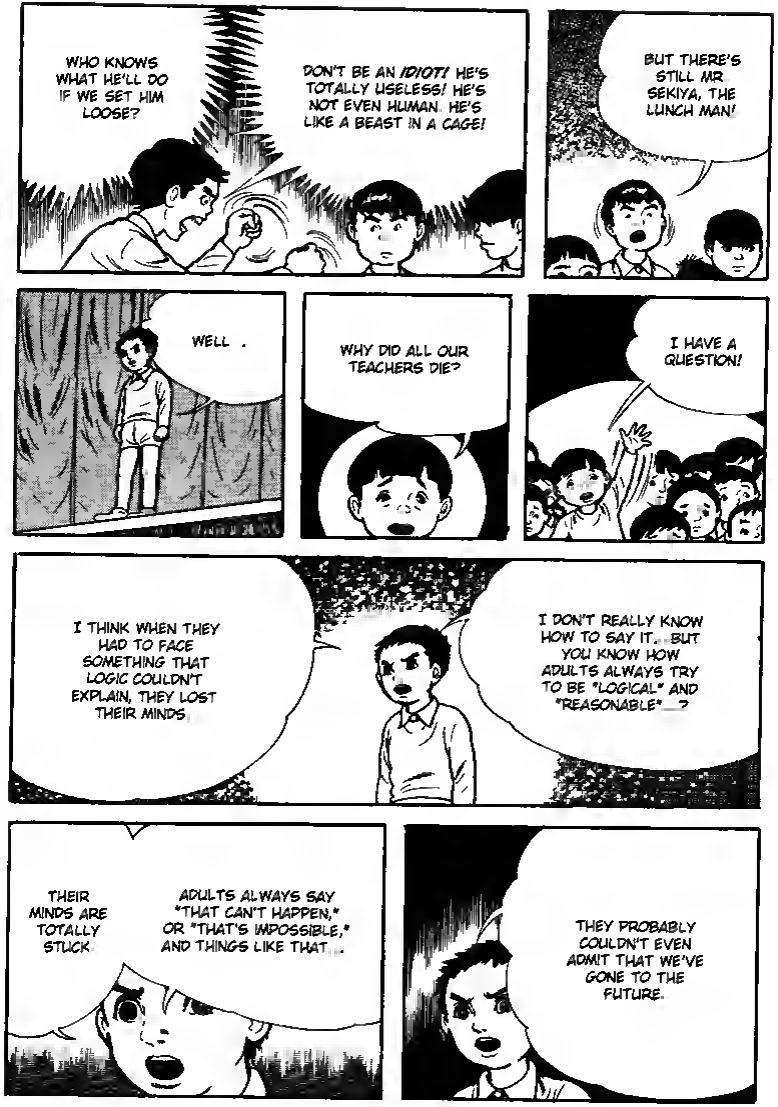
YAYY
WE HAVE WATER!
LISTEN TO ME, EVERYONE!
SO MUCH WATER!
WOW!
YAY!
WE ALL FORGOT ABOUT IT!
THERE'S WATER IN THE POOL!
HURRAH!
WE SHOULD SEARCH THE WHOLE SCHOOL OVER AGAIN! WE MIGHT FIND OTHER THINGS WE NEED!

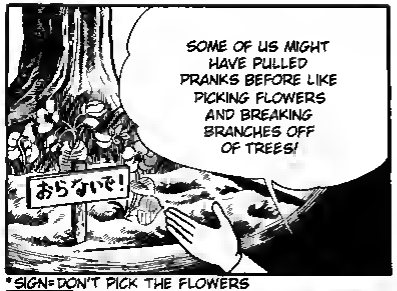

WE SHOULD LOOK EVERYWHERE WE CAN!
WE WERE SO BUSY LOOKING *INSIDE* THE SCHOOL, WE DIDN'T SEARCH THE SCHOOL GROUNDS!
IT TELEPORTED ALONG WITH THE SCHOOL!
LOOK! THERE'S THIS SHACK OUTSIDE THE WALL!
WHOA!
SHFF
DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?
SHO! IT'S ME, HATSUTA FROM CLASS 1!

WE HAVE TO TELL EVERYONE!
I CAN'T JUST LIE HERE 'CAUSE MY TEETH HURT...
OW, OW, OW!
UNGH! MY TEETH!
HUH?
HEY, THERE'S A LITTLE FACTORY OVER HERE! THEY MAKE SOME KIND OF ELECTRONICS!
FOOD! WE FOUND FOOD!
HEY, GUYS!
WAAH... HA HA HA!
FWAK
FWAK
HA HA HA!
WE'RE GOING TO BE OKAY!
THIS IS GREAT!
HURRAY!
THE SIXTH GRADERS HAD A MEETING. THEN WE CALLED THE WHOLE SCHOOL FOR A GIANT ASSEMBLY IN THE GYM
SOME STUDENTS REMEMBERED THAT SEKIYA HAD TRIED TO SELL IT FOR OUR SCHOOL LUNCHES, BUT THE TEACHERS SAID NO BECAUSE IT WAS TOO OLD.
IN THE BACK OF SEKIYA'S CAR WE FOUND SOME OLD RICE.

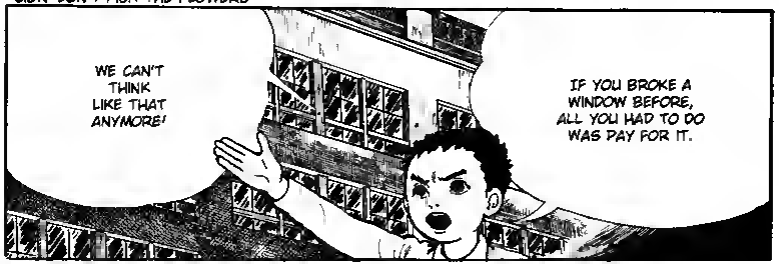
AIEE!
WHAT IS IT, WHAT IS IT?
IT MUST BE THE STORAGE ROOM FOR THAT SUPERMARKET NEXT DOOR!
TH-THIS IS AWESOME!
OWW!
CANNED PINEAPPLES!
WOW!
YUCK

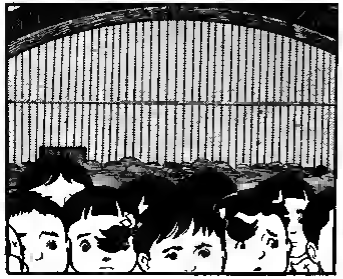
SOMEHOW WE'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO THE FUTURE!
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!
WE WERE RELYING ON THEM, BUT FROM NOW ON WE'LL HAVE TO SURVIVE ON OUR OWN...
ALL THE ADULTS ARE DEAD NOW!

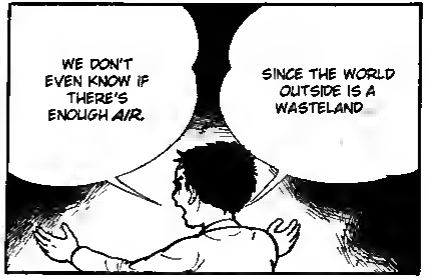

WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO IF WE SET HIM LOOSE?
DON'T BE AN IDIOT! HE'S TOTALLY USELESS! HE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN. HE'S LIKE A BEAST IN A CAGE!
BUT THERE'S STILL MR SEKIYA, THE LUNCH MAN!
WELL .
WHY DID ALL OUR TEACHERS DIE?
I HAVE A QUESTION!
I THINK WHEN THEY HAD TO FACE SOMETHING THAT LOGIC COULDN'T EXPLAIN, THEY LOST THEIR MINDS.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO SAY IT... BUT YOU KNOW HOW ADULTS ALWAYS TRY TO BE "LOGICAL" AND "REASONABLE"...?
THEIR MINDS ARE TOTALLY STUCK.
ADULTS ALWAYS SAY "THAT CAN'T HAPPEN," OR "THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE," AND THINGS LIKE THAT...
THEY PROBABLY COULDN'T EVEN ADMIT THAT WE'VE GONE TO THE FUTURE.

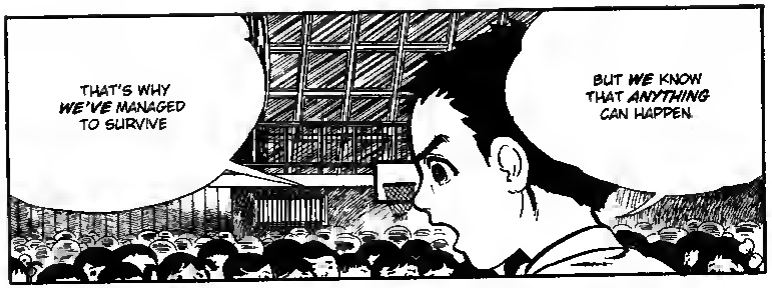


*SIGN=DON'T PICK THE FLOWERS

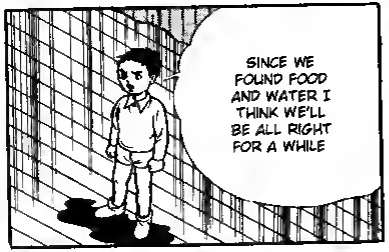


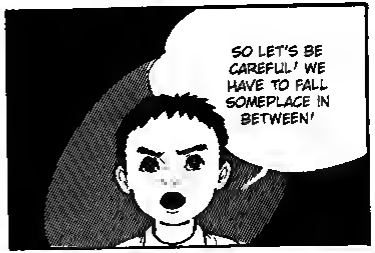






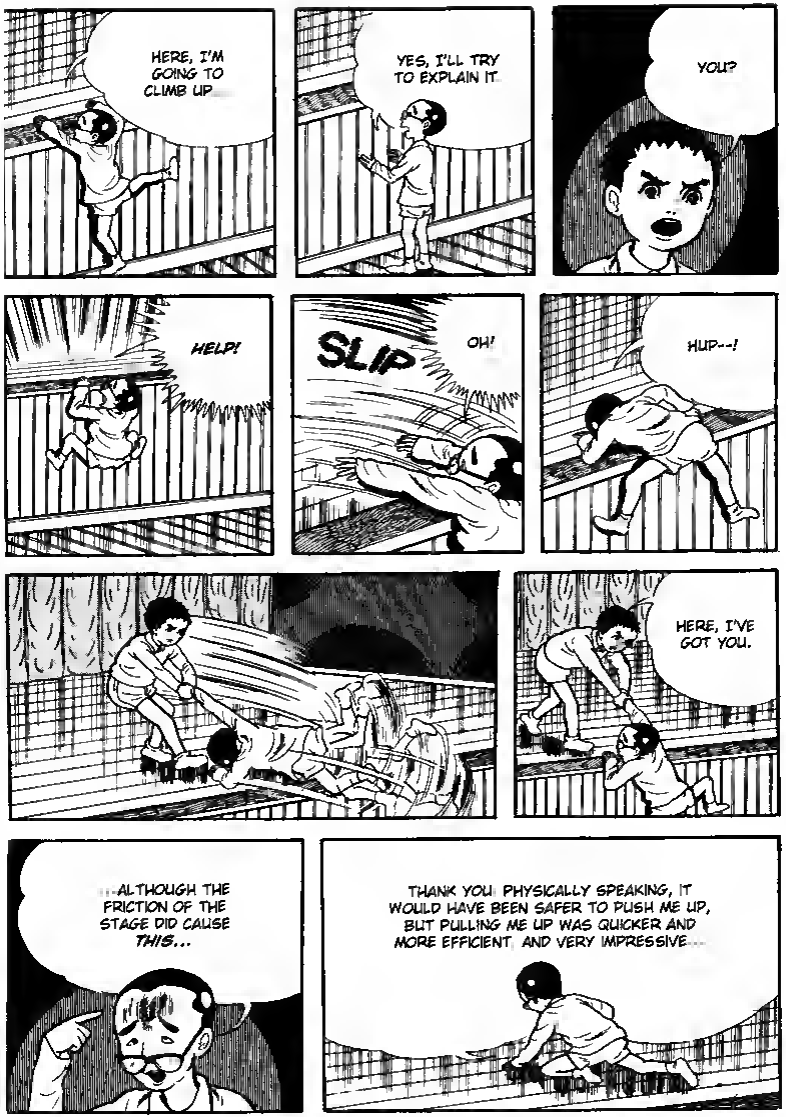
...WE MIGHT BELIEVE THINGS THAT AREN'T REAL...AND FALL PREY TO SUPERSTITIONS, LIKE SOME OF US DID WITH TATSUMI.
ON THE OTHER HAND, BECAUSE WE CAN BELIEVE ANYTHING...





THEY'RE ALIVE!
NO
ARE OUR PARENTS DEAD?
WHY?
THEN WHY AREN'T THEY HERE?
I JUST COULDN'T ACCEPT THE THOUGHT THAT YOU AND DAD MIGHT BE DEAD.
MOTHER . WHEN I SAID THAT, MY CONVICTION SURPRISED EVEN ME.
W-WELL...
HUH?
HEY, SHO!
EVERYONE WAS STARING AT ME
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE FOLLOWED THE RULES BEFORE...
AS FAR AS WE KNOW, WE'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE HERE!
BUT NOW WE HAVE TO MAKE RULES, AND WE ALL HAVE TO AGREE TO FOLLOW THEM! IF EVERYONE ONLY THINKS OF THEMSELVES, WE'LL ALL BE IN BIG TROUBLE!
WE HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO SURVIVE ON OUR OWN!
WHEN I WENT EXPLORING, I SAW WHAT WAS OUT THERE, AND THERE WAS NOTHING BUT SAND
YES.
I HAVE A QUESTION!
EXCUSE ME!


HERE, I'M GOING TO CLIMB UP...
YES, I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN IT.
YOU?
HELP!
SLIP
OH!
HUP--!
HERE, I'VE GOT YOU.
...ALTHOUGH THE FRICTION OF THE STAGE DID CAUSE THIS...
THANK YOU. PHYSICALLY SPEAKING, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SAFER TO PUSH ME UP, BUT PULLING ME UP WAS QUICKER AND MORE EFFICIENT, AND VERY IMPRESSIVE...

YEAH!
GAMO?
WHAT?
THIS GUY GAMO FROM THE FIFTH GRADE SAYS HE WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING...
HERE HE IS!
HE'S GOT AN IQ OF 230...
YOU KNOW, THE SCHOOL GENIUS!
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HI... NICE TO MEET YOU.
SNIFFLE
UM. MY NAME IS GAMO.
WHAT?
ALLOW ME TO ANSWER HER QUESTION.

THAT'S OBVIOUS IF YOU LOOK OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL.
OUR PARENTS AREN'T HERE ANYMORE.
SO, WELL, UH...I WILL ANSWER THE LAST QUESTION
WHAT!?
BUT THEY ARE STILL ALIVE.
WE WERE INSTANTANEOUSLY TRANSPORTED TO THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF PHYSICS, WE'RE STILL IN THE SAME TIMELINE, EVEN IF WE'RE AT DIFFERENT POINTS
FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, THAT PLACE MIGHT SEEM LIKE THE PAST
THEY ARE ALIVE WHERE WE USED TO BE.
EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T BE WITH THEM, OUR PARENTS ARE STILL THERE
WE START OUT AT THE SAME POINT, BUT WE'RE AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS
FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY WE TOOK THE SHINKANSEN TO TOKYO AND OUR PARENTS TOOK THE REGULAR, SLOW TRAIN
OKAY, LISTEN UP!
UM, WELL ..IN CLOSING...LIKE SHO SAYS, I THINK WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST TO COOPERATE...
WE'RE THE MOST MATURE ONES HERE!
I THINK WE SHOULD BE SURROGATE PARENTS FOR THE OTHERS!
SIXTH GRADERS!
I'LL BE A MOTHER!
I AGREE!
...AND THE SIXTH GRADE GIRLS SHOULD BE MOTHERS!
SO THE SIXTH GRADE BOYS SHOULD BE FATHERS...
ME TOO!
I WILL TOO!
THANKS, SAKI!

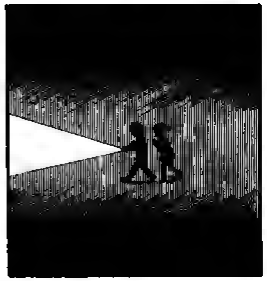
KA-CHANG
CHAPTER 12:
A SINGLE LEAF

KREEK

OKAY...!
LET'S GO LOOK!

WH-WHAT WAS THAT SOUND!?

AH!

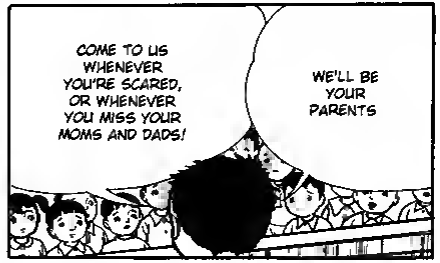


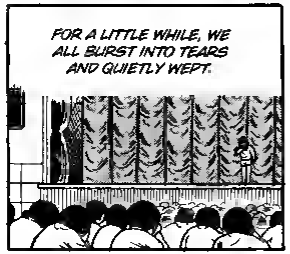
DID YOU HEAR THAT, YOU GUYS?

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
THANKS, EVERY-BODY!

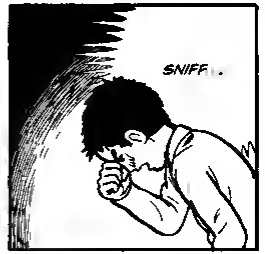
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

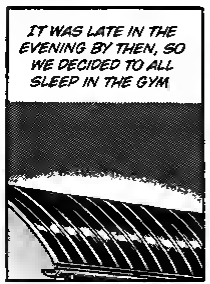
S-SO THAT'S ALL...! THIS MEETING IS DISMISSED...!


COME TO US WHENEVER YOU'RE SCARED, OR WHENEVER YOU MISS YOUR MOMS AND DADS!
WE'LL BE YOUR PARENTS

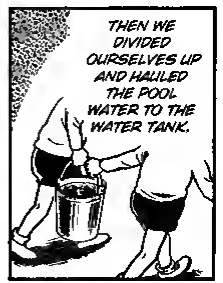

FOR A LITTLE WHILE, WE ALL BURST INTO TEARS AND QUIETLY WEPT.

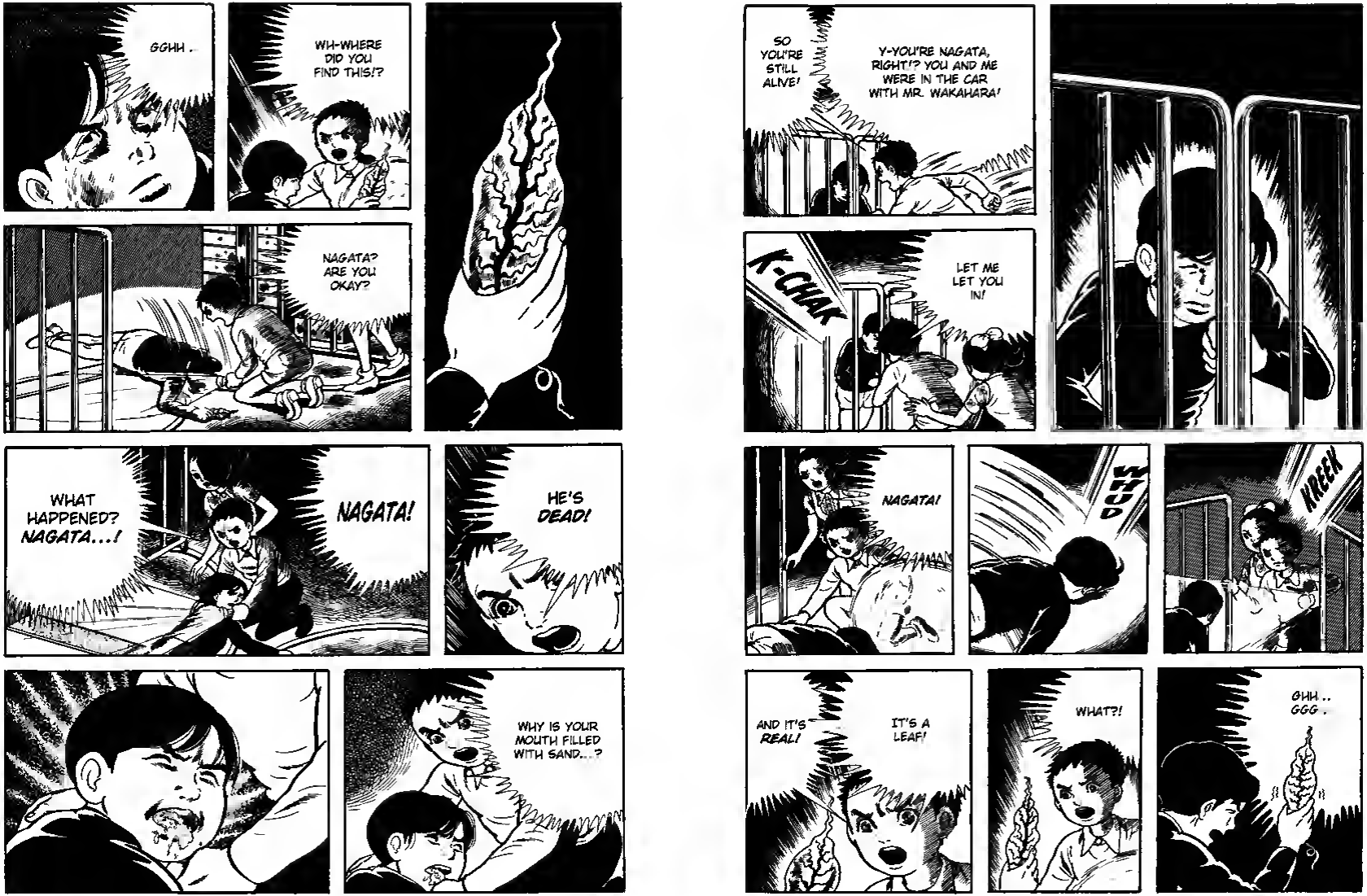
WAAH!
SNF... SOB...


SNIFF...


IT WAS LATE IN THE EVENING BY THEN, SO WE DECIDED TO ALL SLEEP IN THE GYM.

WE MADE A LARGE TARP FOR THE POOL TO PREVENT THE REST OF THE WATER FROM EVAPORATING.

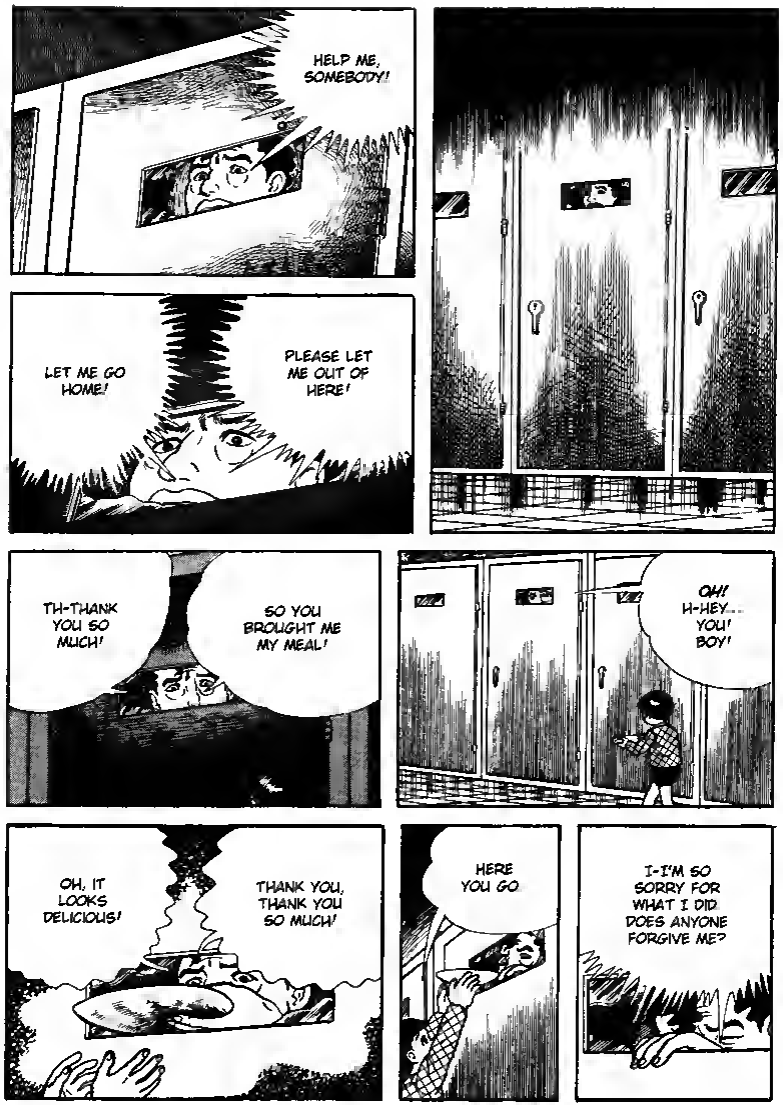

THEN WE DIVIDED OURSELVES UP AND HAULED THE POOL WATER TO THE WATER TANK.


SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
Y-YOU'RE NAGATA, RIGHT!? YOU AND ME WERE IN THE CAR WITH MR. WAKAHARA!
K-CHAK
LET ME LET YOU IN!
NAGATA!
THUD
KREEK
AND IT'S REAL!
IT'S A LEAF!
WHAT?!
GHH.. GGG.
GGHH.
WH-WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS!?
NAGATA? ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT HAPPENED? NAGATA...!
NAGATA!
HE'S DEAD!
WHY IS YOUR MOUTH FILLED WITH SAND...?

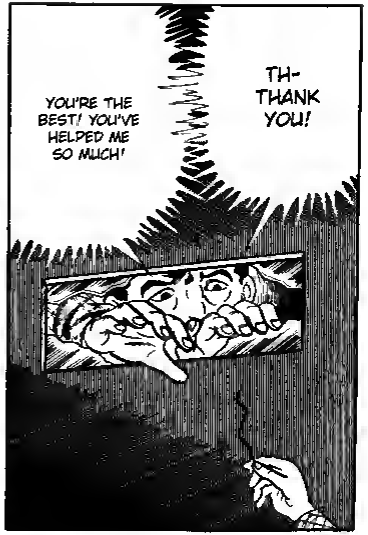
WE WERE SAD ABOUT NAGATA, BUT DISCOVERING THAT ONE LEAF IGNITED OUR HOPE AND COURAGE.
THE SCHOOL ERUPTED WITH JOY WHEN WE SHARED THE NEWS THE NEXT DAY. WE DECIDED TO FORM A SEARCH PARTY.
IF THERE WERE PLANTS OUT THERE, THEN IT MEANT THE WORLD COULD STILL SUPPORT LIFE! THAT WAS OUR BEST HOPE FOR SURVIVAL
HURRAY!
WHAT!
HEY, WE'RE HAVING A RAMEN FEAST TONIGHT!
YEAH! YAYY!
INSTANT RAMEN!? REALLY?

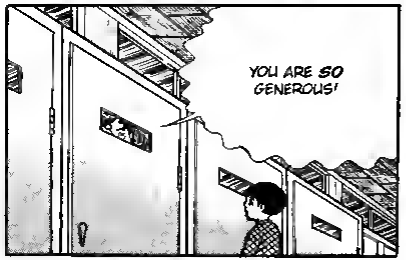
I GUESS ANYONE WHO'S STARVING WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME!
HE WAS SO HUNGRY HE ATE SAND.
THAT'S HORRIBLE!
...TO TELL US THAT THERE'S PLANTS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE!
I SEE WHAT HAPPENED. YOU WERE STARVING, BUT YOU CAME ALL THE WAY BACK, HOLDING THIS LEAF...
UNNH...!
THANK YOU, NAGATA!

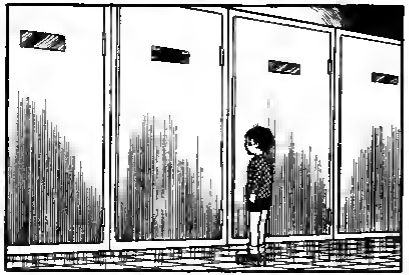
YOU'RE SO KIND! YOU'RE MUCH NICER THAN THE OTHERS...
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU EVEN IF I END UP DYING HERE IN THIS LOCKER. I CAN HARDLY MOVE...
PLEASE WAIT!
AHH! WAIT! BOY!
COULD YOU GIVE ME THAT WIRE!
I NEED YOU TO HELP ME!
I NEED TO FIX MY FALSE TEETH!
Y-YES, THAT ONE!


HELP ME, SOMEBODY!
LET ME GO HOME!
PLEASE LET ME OUT OF HERE!
TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH!
SO YOU BROUGHT ME MY MEAL!
OH! H-HEY... YOU! BOY!
OH, IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU SO MUCH!
HERE YOU GO.
I-I'M SO SORRY FOR WHAT I DID. DOES ANYONE FORGIVE ME?

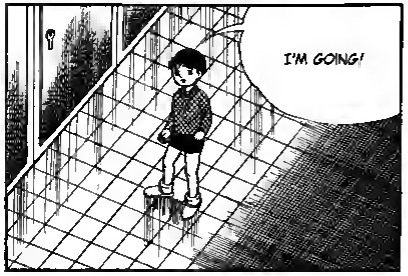
THANK YOU SO MUCH!


TH-THANK YOU!
YOU'RE THE BEST! YOU'VE HELPED ME SO MUCH!

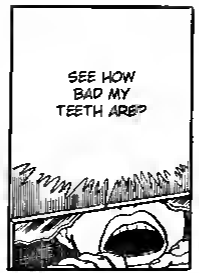

YOU ARE SO GENEROUS!

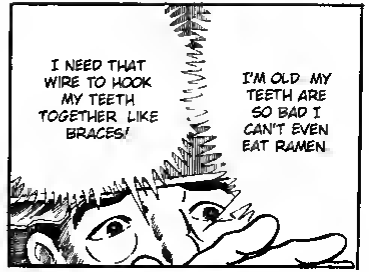


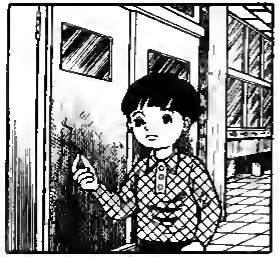
I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING IN RETURN. COULD YOU JUST WAIT A MINUTE...?

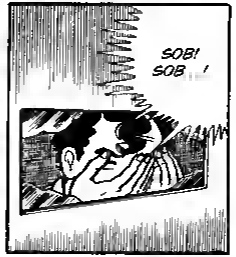

I'M GOING!

PLEASE?

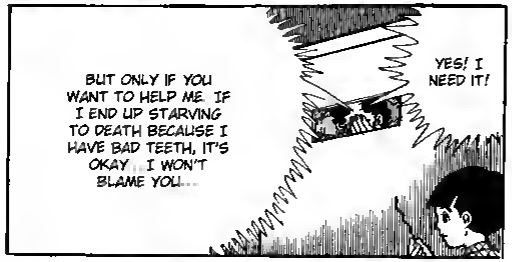

SEE HOW BAD MY TEETH ARE?

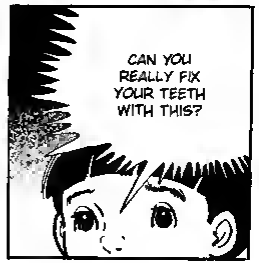

I NEED THAT WIRE TO HOOK MY TEETH TOGETHER LIKE BRACES!
I'M OLD. MY TEETH ARE SO BAD I CAN'T EVEN EAT RAMEN.

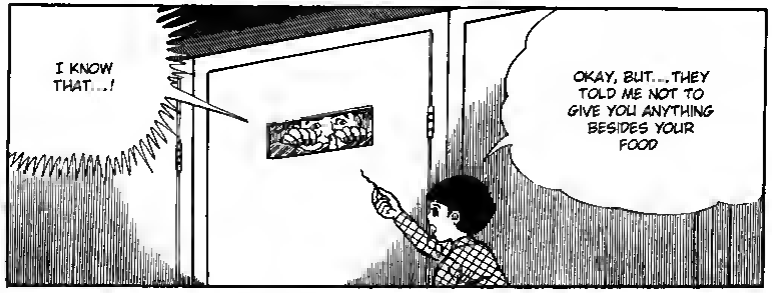


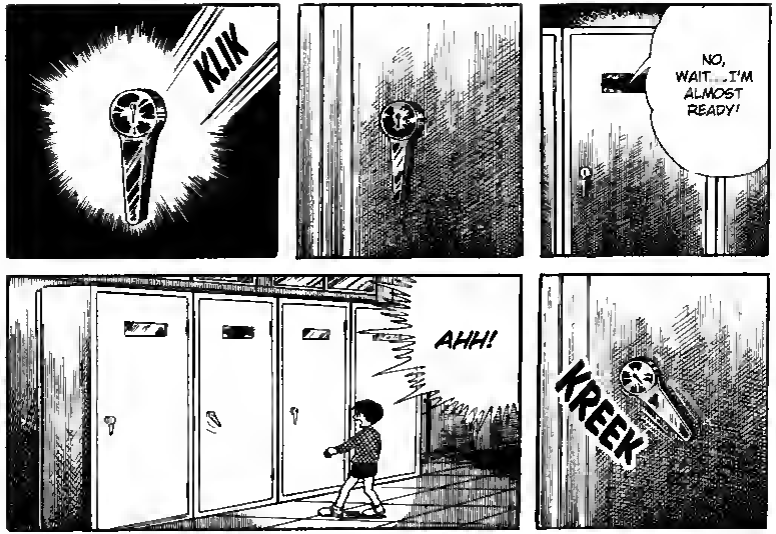

SOB! SOB...!

CAN I HAVE IT?

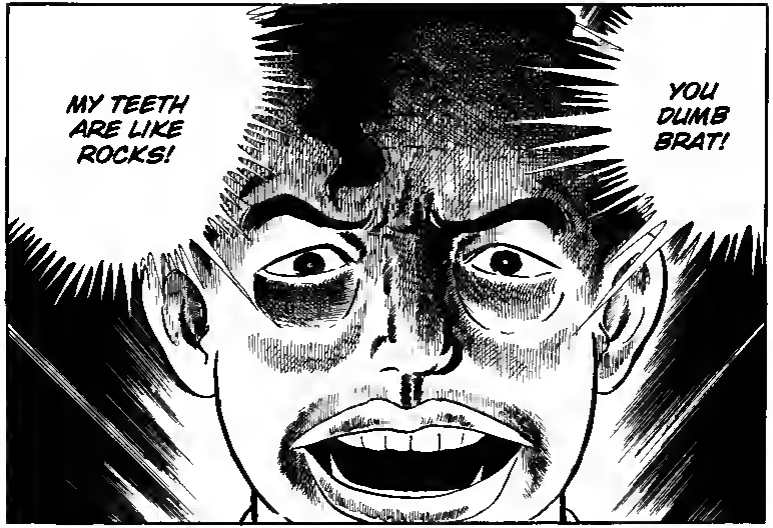

BUT ONLY IF YOU WANT TO HELP ME. IF I END UP STARVING TO DEATH BECAUSE I HAVE BAD TEETH, IT'S OKAY...I WON'T BLAME YOU...
YES! I NEED IT!


CAN YOU REALLY FIX YOUR TEETH WITH THIS?

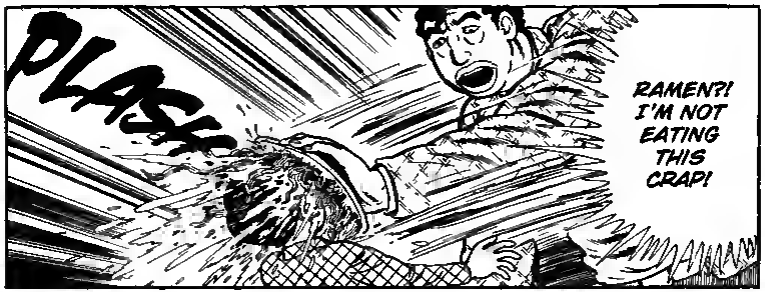

I KNOW THAT...!
OKAY, BUT...THEY TOLD ME NOT TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING BESIDES YOUR FOOD

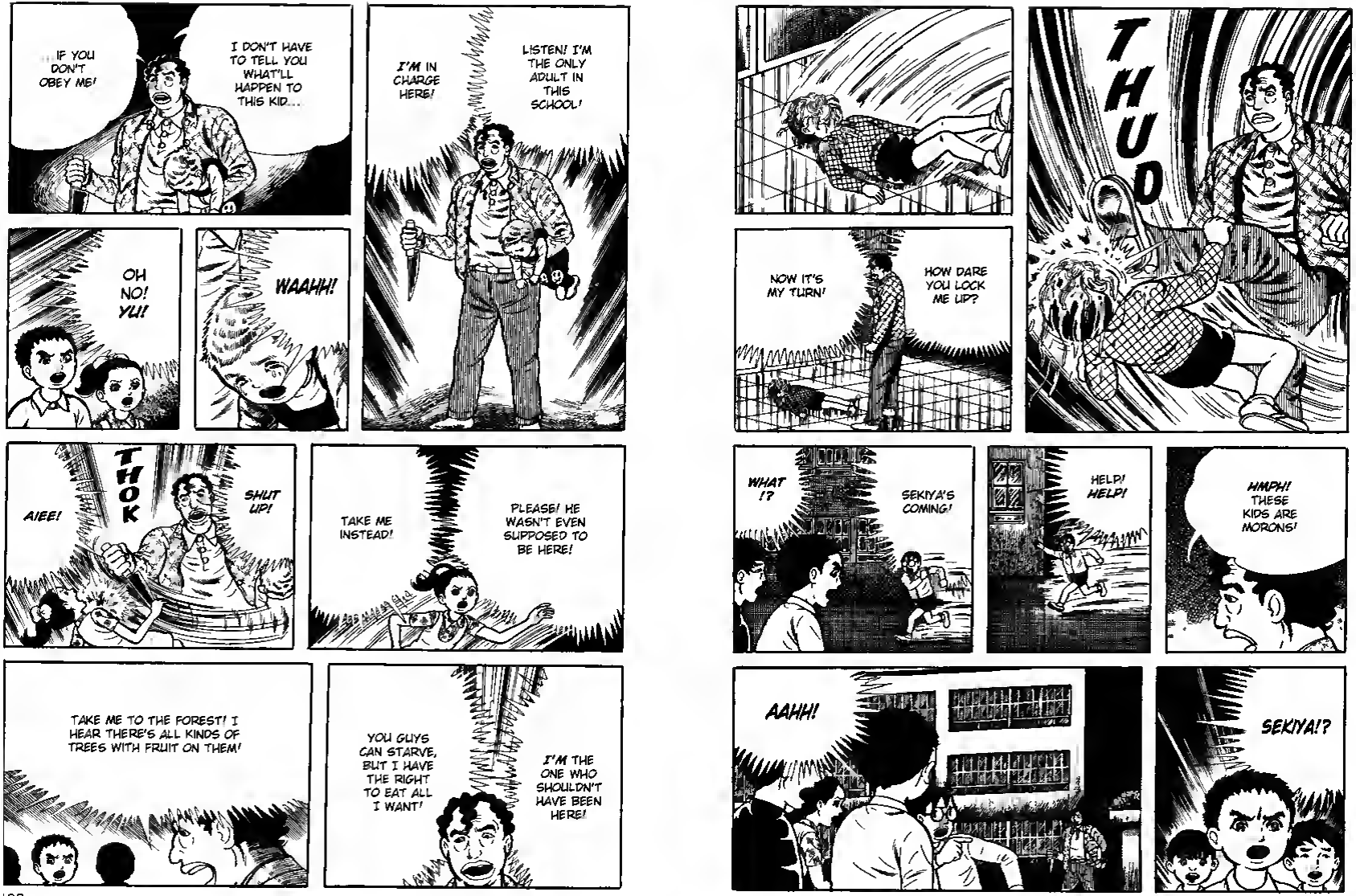

KLIK
NO, WAIT...I'M ALMOST READY!
AHH!
KREEK

WHAM


MY TEETH ARE LIKE ROCKS!
YOU DUMB BRAT!

I JUST NEEDED THIS WIRE TO PICK THE LOCK!


PLASH
RAMEN?! I'M NOT EATING THIS CRAP!


THUD
NOW IT'S MY TURN!
HOW DARE YOU LOCK ME UP?
WHAT!?
SEKIYA'S COMING!
HELP! HELP!
HMPH! THESE KIDS ARE MORONS!
AAHH!
SEKIYA!?
IF YOU DON'T OBEY ME!
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THIS KID...
I'M IN CHARGE HERE!
LISTEN! I'M THE ONLY ADULT IN THIS SCHOOL!
OH NO! YU!
WAAHH!
AIEE!
THOK
SHUT UP!
TAKE ME INSTEAD!
PLEASE! HE WASN'T EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
TAKE ME TO THE FOREST! I HEAR THERE'S ALL KINDS OF TREES WITH FRUIT ON THEM!
YOU GUYS CAN STARVE, BUT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO EAT ALL I WANT!
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HERE!

WE'RE IN THE FUTURE!
"FUTURE PLANT"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S PROBABLY FROM SOME FUTURE PLANT.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WON'T FIND IT EVEN IF YOU LOOK IN A BOTANY BOOK
THAT'S WHAT I'M HOLDING OUT FOR! AND YOU AREN'T GONNA STAND IN MY WAY!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! AMERICAN SOLDIERS WILL LAND AND RESCUE US IN A FEW WEEKS!
THE FUTURE !?
LOOK OVER THERE!
HEY, IT'S NAGATA'S FOOTPRINT!
FORGET IT, SHO! HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT, NO MATTER HOW OBVIOUS IT IS
LOOK!
TUMP TUMP
THERE REALLY IS A FOREST!

SHUT UP! SHOW ME THE WAY!
B-BUT... WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S A FOREST, OR WHAT'S IN THERE...!
AGH!
TUMP
WHERE IS IT? THIS IS TAKING FOREVER!
SHO, HE WANTS YOU TO SHOW HIM THE LEAF!
SHOW ME THIS LEAF OF YOURS
I'VE NEVER SEEN A LEAF LIKE THIS BEFORE!
WHAT THE HELL'S THIS!?
HERE IT IS

QUIT CRYING OR YOU'RE NEXT!
WAAH !!
WAIT!
I SAID SHUT UP!
WAHH! WAAH!
B-BUT ARE THEY EDIBLE ...?
WHOA!
THERE'S SOME FRUIT! THERE!

TH-THEY HARDLY EVEN LOOK LIKE PLANTS
WH-WHAT KIND OF PLANTS ARE THESE?
YOU TRICKED ME!
WE DIDN'T TRICK YOU! LOOK, THE SAME LEAVES!
WHAT DID YOU TAKE ME TO THIS PLACE FOR? I DON'T WANT THIS WEIRD STUFF! I WANT FOOD!
AGGH!
YOU SHUT UP!
TROK

OF COURSE THEY ARE!
MOVE IT!
EAT IT.
TUNK
AGH!
THUD
I SAID EAT IT!

EAT IT!
NGH!
SHO!
NMGG ...!

I'M LETTING YOU EAT THIS!
OPEN YOUR MOUTH!
YOU BETTER TAKE A BITE!
CHOMP
HAAK
SHO!
NOW CHEW IT! SWALLOW IT!

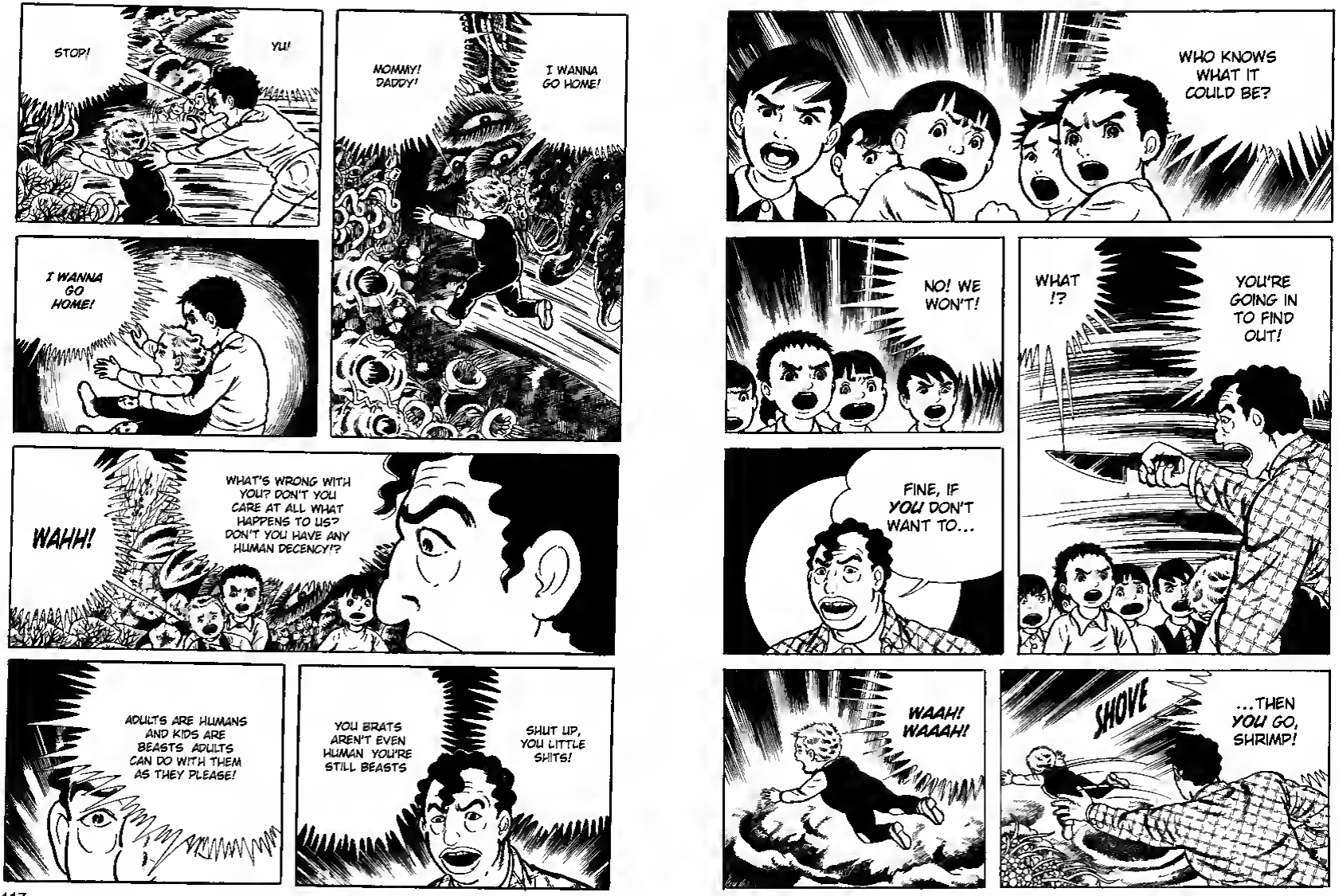
STOP IT!
WHAT IF IT'S POISONOUS?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THOK
URGH!
SHUT UP! I KNOW IT'S EDIBLE
TH-THEN WHY DON'T YOU EAT IT YOURSELF?
NNHHAA..
QUIET, IKEZAKI! YOU'LL JUST MAKE HIM MAD...!

PTOO
PTOO
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!
HUH!?
WHAT!?
CHOMP
I'M NOT LYING! TRY IT YOURSELF!
BLECH
BLECH
BLECH
IT TASTES GRE-
YOU'RE A LIAR!
IT'S SAND!
UNGH!

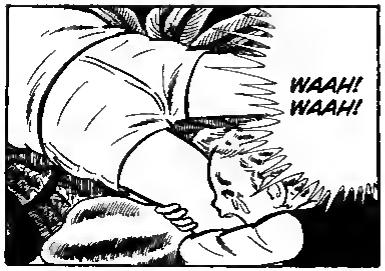
WHY, YOU LITTLE BRAT!
WAHH! WAAHH!
HAKK HAKK
N-NO, I DIDN'T!
YOU SPAT IT OUT ON PURPOSE!
LOOK!
I COULDN'T EAT IT!
IT TURNED TO SAND.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
B-BUT HOW?
IT TURNS TO SAND WHEN YOU CHEW IT! MAYBE THERE'S SOME SCIENTIFIC REASON ..!
WHAT!?
LOOK AT ALL THESE BITE MARKS!
AHH!
LOOK! AN EMPTY EGGSHELL!
THERE'S AN ANIMAL HERE!

SHH! I HEARD SOMETHING!
RUSTLE
LOOK, THE LEAVES...!
SOMETHING WAS EATING THEM!


WHO KNOWS WHAT IT COULD BE?
NO! WE WON'T!
WHAT !?
YOU'RE GOING IN TO FIND OUT!
FINE, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
WAAH! WAAAH!
SHOVE
...THEN YOU GO, SHRIMP!
STOP!
YU!
MOMMY! DADDY!
I WANNA GO HOME!
I WANNA GO HOME!
WAHH!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? DON'T YOU CARE AT ALL WHAT HAPPENS TO US? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY HUMAN DECENCY!?
ADULTS ARE HUMANS AND KIDS ARE BEASTS ADULTS CAN DO WITH THEM AS THEY PLEASE!
YOU BRATS AREN'T EVEN HUMAN YOU'RE STILL BEASTS
SHUT UP, YOU LITTLE SHITS!

YOU BASTARD!
I'LL CUT YOU ALL TO LITTLE PIECES!
YOU WANNA FIGHT? I'LL SHOW YOU HOW STRONG GROWNUPS ARE!
WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED THIS BASTARD!
SO YOU WANT TO FIGHT, YOU LITTLE TWERP?
D-DAMN IT!
IKEGAKI! DON'T!
DAMN YOU!
UNGH!
AGGH!!!
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO KILL ME!
HA!
PLEASE STOP DOING THIS!
STOP IT!


WAAH!
WAAH!

SHO! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

AH!

RRIP
RRIP

WHAM
THEN GET OUT OF MY WAY!

PLEASE! STOP STEPPING ON HIM! HE'LL SUFFOCATE!

SHFF

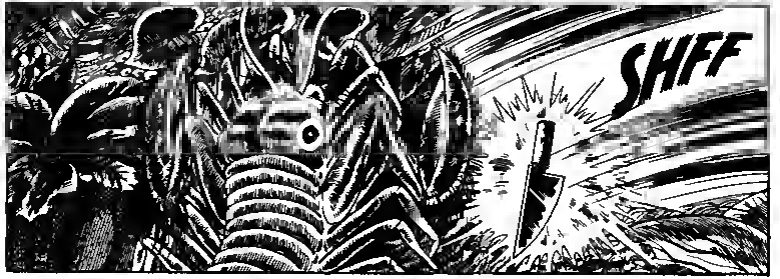
RRIP
RRIP

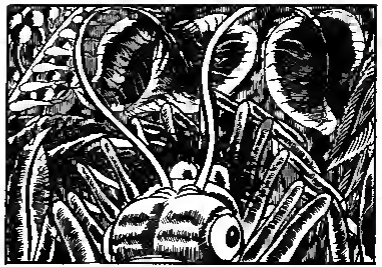
EEYAA!
WAAH!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
GWAAA!
HUH?!
W-W-W-WAA!

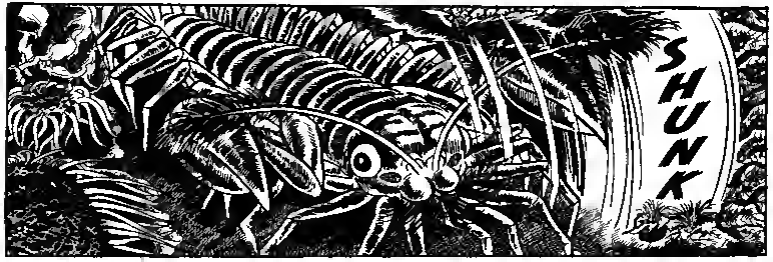
T-TAKE THIS!

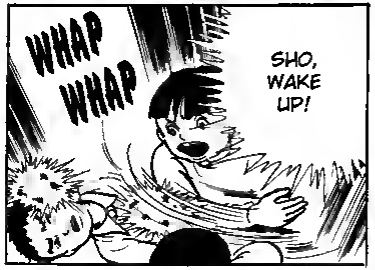
WHAT IF YOU MISS?
DON'T DO IT!

NO, DON'T!

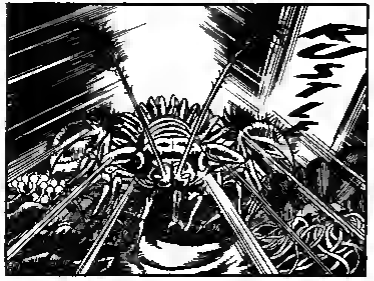

SHFF




SHUNK


WHAP WHAP
SHO, WAKE UP!

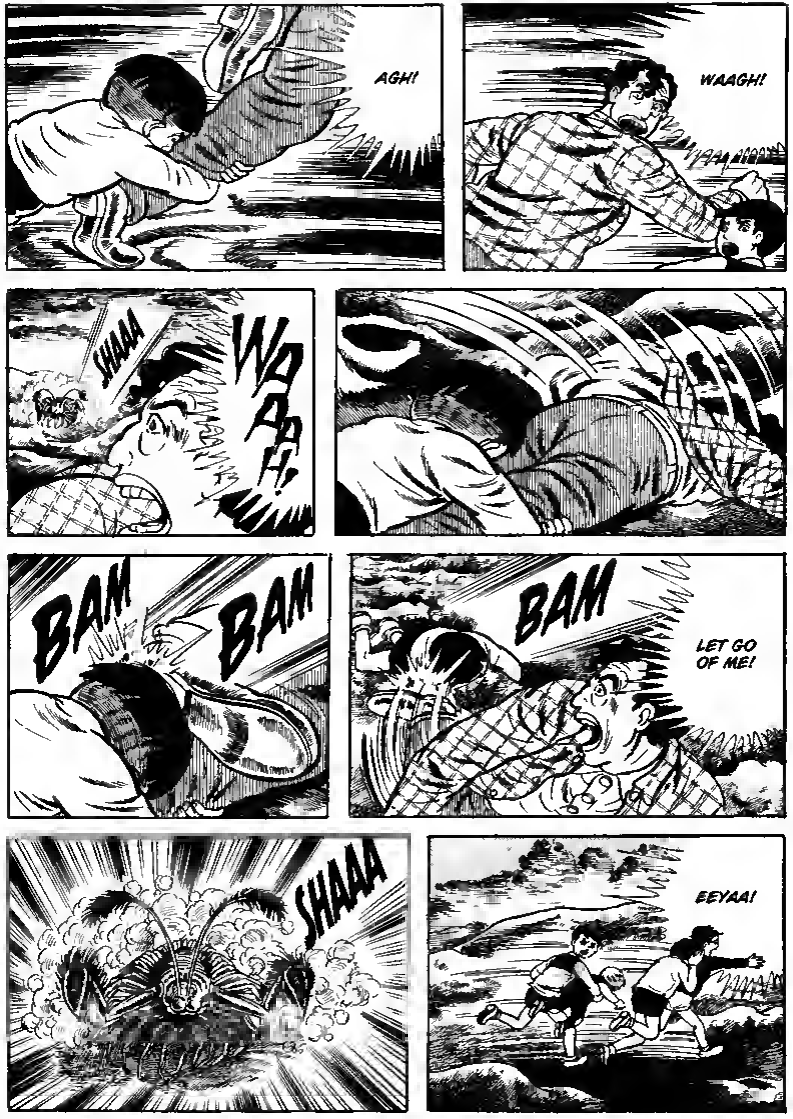
RUN FOR IT!
AHH, IT'S FACING US!

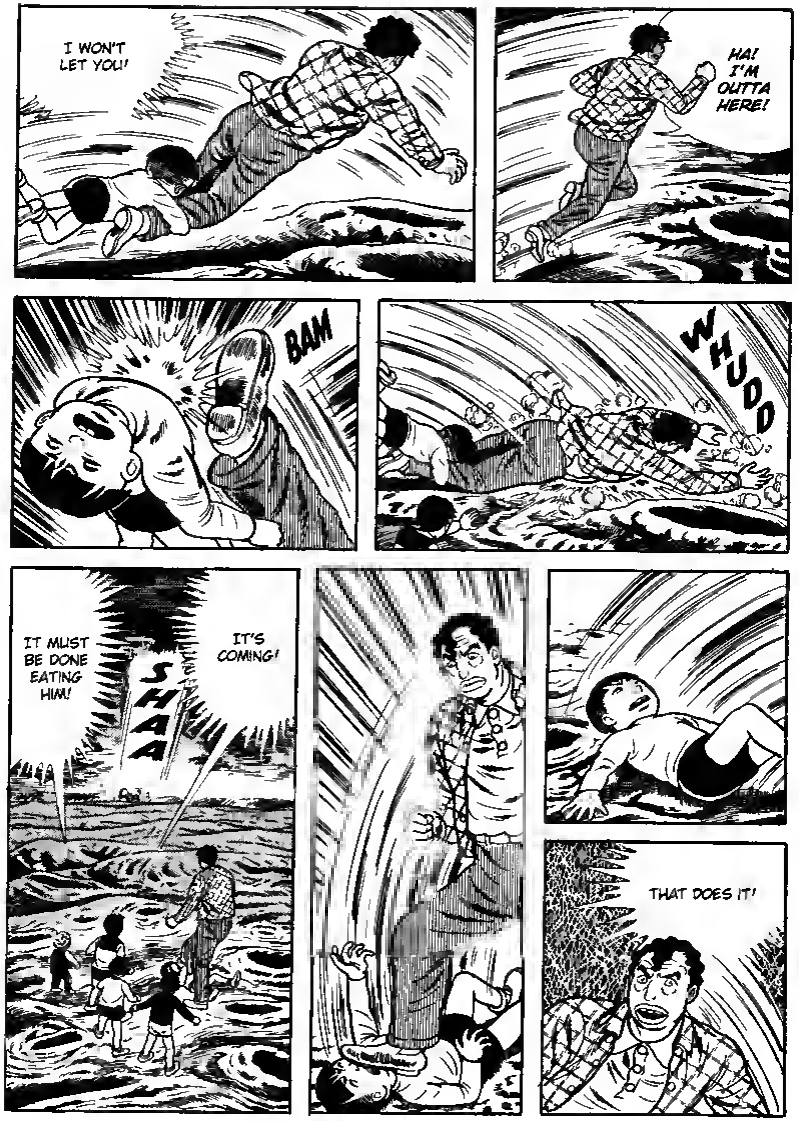

KUSH

EEYAAA
AGH!!
IT'S COMING!
THUNK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH!

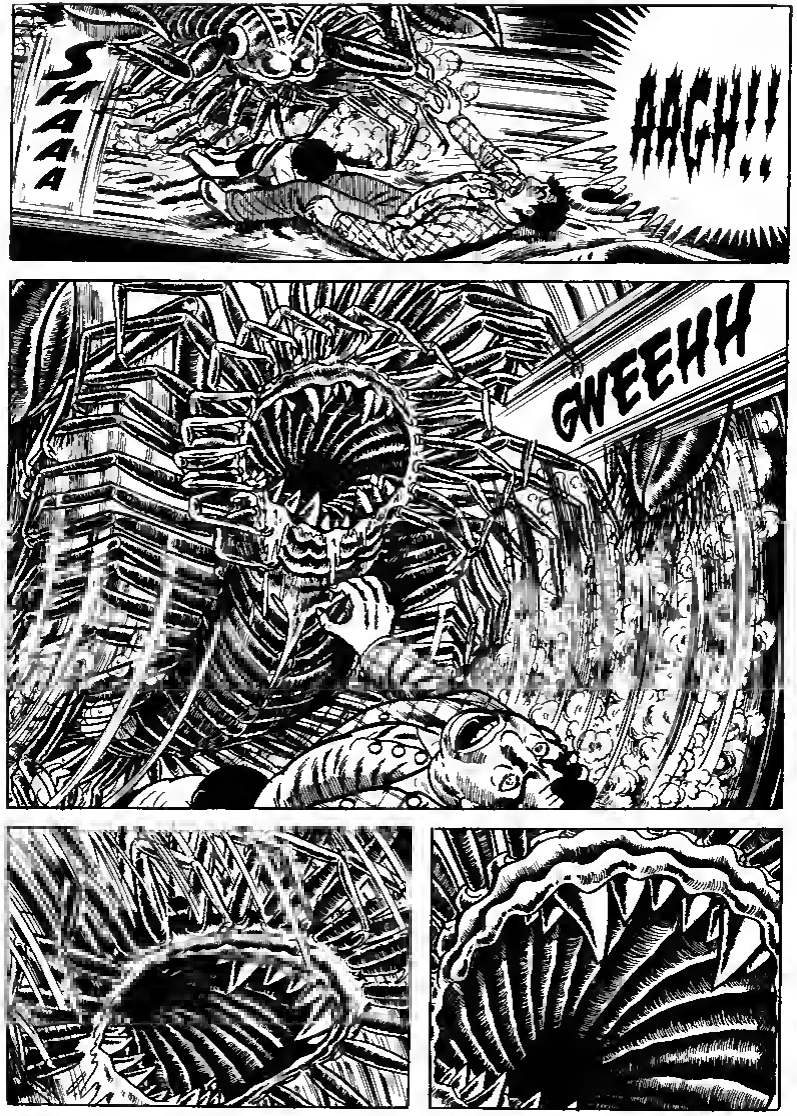
WHUO
I'M GONNA USE THIS LITTLE SHIT TO DISTRACT IT!
SHAA
NO!
SHO! OH MY GOD!
SHAAA

SHO!
IT GOT HIM!
AGGH! NOO!
GET MOVING! GET MOVING IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
EVERY-ONE, STOP!
HOLD ON!
SHO!
SHO!
WE'LL BE LEADING THAT MONSTER TO THE SCHOOL. EVERYONE WILL BE MASSACRED!
EVEN IF WE MAKE IT BACK TO SCHOOL BECAUSE IT STOPS TO EAT SHO, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN THEN...?
ARE YOU STUPID?!
WHAT ?!
WE HAVE TO FIGHT!
I DON'T KHOW! W-WE'LL BREAK ITS FEELERS!
H-HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIGHT A THING LIKE THAT?!
I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE AT YOUR SCHOOL! I HAVE A RIGHT TO BE SAVED!
I'M RUNNING!
NOT ME! YOU IDIOTS GO AHEAD!
YOU'RE AN ADULT! YOU'RE STRONGER THAN US! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO FIGHT!


AGH!
WAAGH!
SHAAA
WOAH!
BAM
BAM
BAM
LET GO OF ME!
SHAAA
EEYAA!


I WON'T LET YOU!
HA! I'M OUTTA HERE!
BAM
WHUDD
IT MUST BE DONE EATING HIM!
SHAA
IT'S COMING!
THAT DOES IT!

SHAA
SHAA
UWAA..
AAGH!!


SHAA
AAGH!!
GWEEHH

BUT--!
CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING TO SAVE YOU!
DON'T BE STUPID!
OKAY!
NOW GO!
YOUR JOB IS TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THIS! TELL THEM THERE'S A MONSTER!
THERE'S NO POINT IN RUNNING ANYMORE! IT'LL JUST CATCH UP TO US!
NOW WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT!
COME ON! WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!
ME TOO!
BUT I'M SCARED!

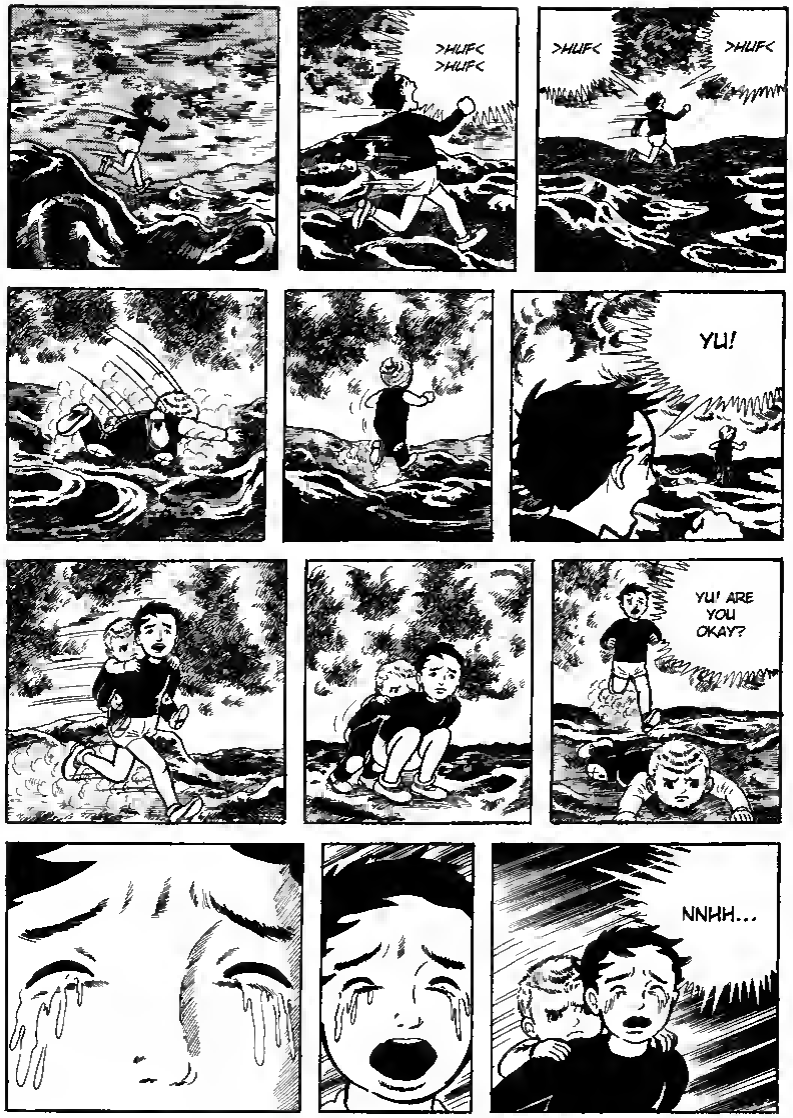
>HUF<
>HUF<
SHAAA
COME ON, WE HAVE TO FIGHT! WE CAN'T RUN LIKE COWARDS!
AGGH!
SHAAA
IT'S STILL COMING!
I WANT TO FIGHT TOO!
NO!
YOU KNOW WHERE THE SCHOOL IS, RIGHT!?
YU! YOU KEEP RUNNING!

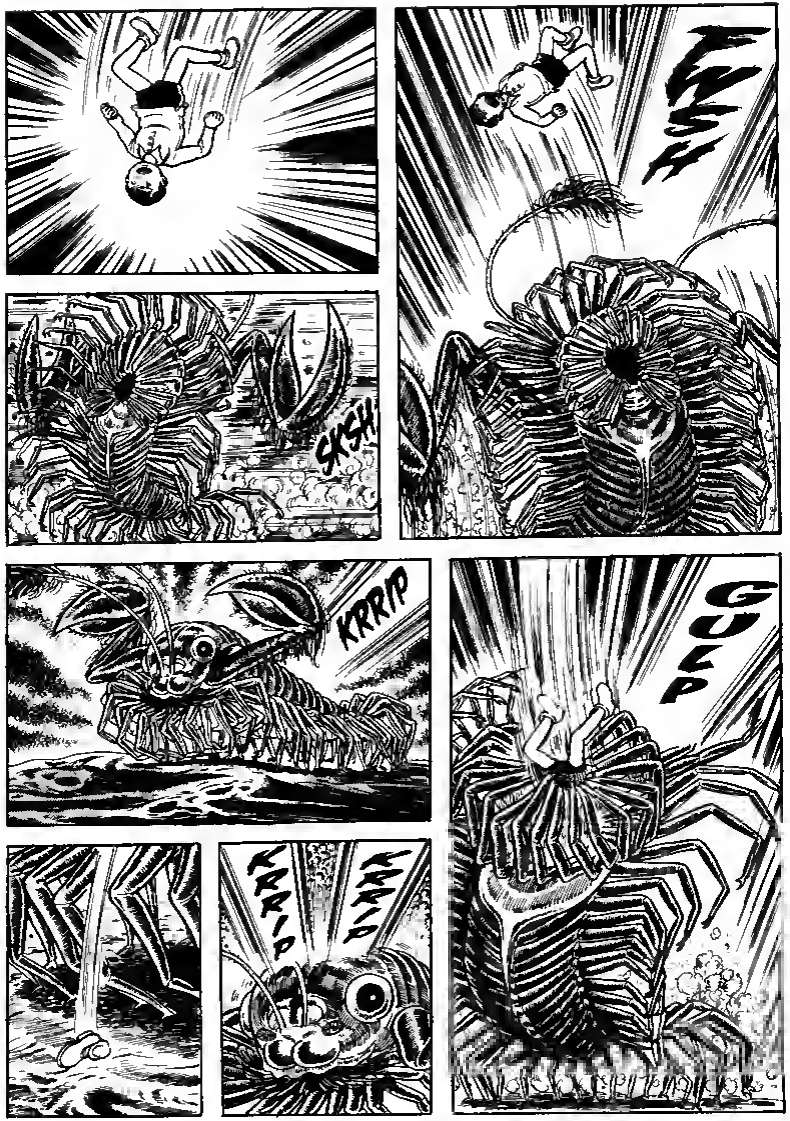
I'M SORRY, I'M TOO SCARED!
AIEEE!
IT'S EATING OTOMO!
OH NO!
I'M SCARED!
HELP!
IT'S STILL AFTER US!
OH NO!
I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HEY!
THUD
THUD
THUD
SHAAA
SHAAA
SHAAA

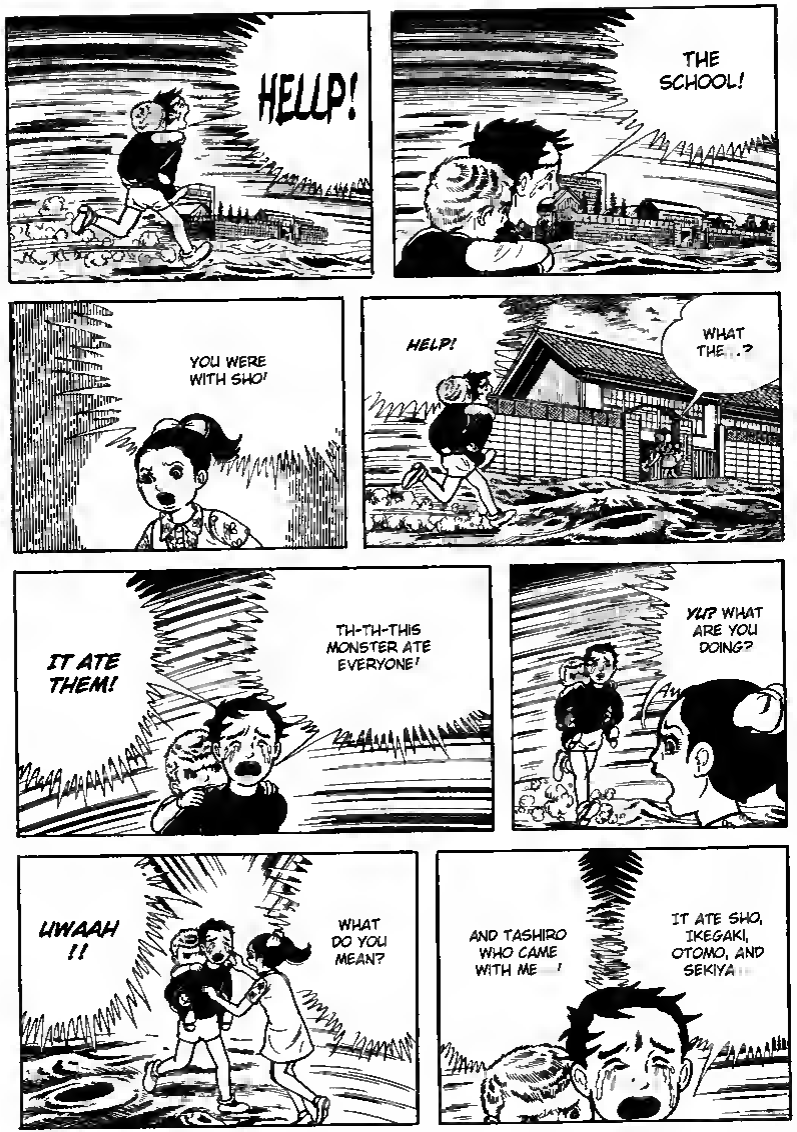
SHAA
SOMEBODY HELP!
AEEE!!
UWAAH!
I'M GOING TO FIGHT IT!
SHAA
UWAAH AAAH!

SHAA
MOTHER!
FATHER!

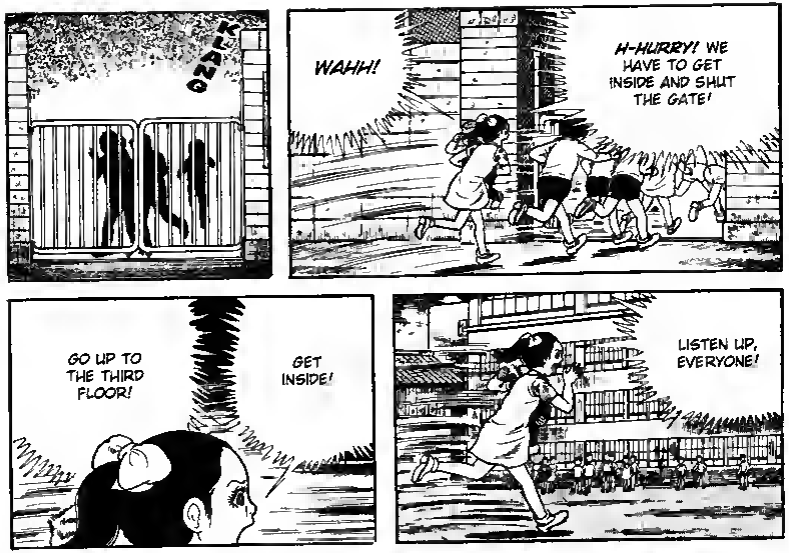

>HUFC
>HUFC
>HUFC
>HUFC
YU!
YU! ARE YOU OKAY?
NNHH...


FUSH
SKSH
KRRIP
GULP
KRRIP
KRRIP

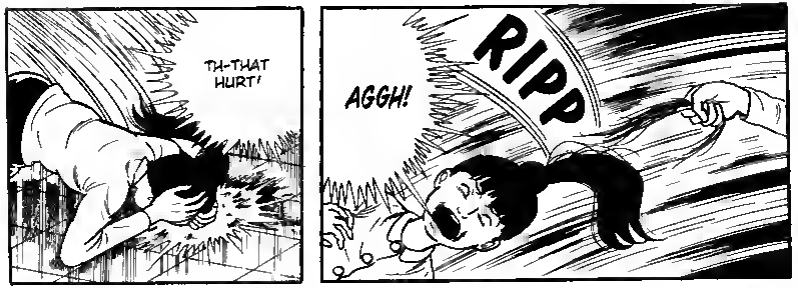
ALL I COULD DO WAS GRAB YU AND RUN!
SOB!
I FOUGHT HARD, BUT IT WAS HOPELESS!
YEAH, THE FRUIT TREES!
WH-WHAT ABOUT THE TREES!?
SOB ..!
AKABANE! WHAT HAPPENED ?
YU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SN... SNIFF! SOB!
AKABANE!
WAHH!
THE MONSTER'S GONNA ATTACK THE SCHOOL! I RAN HERE TO TELL YOU!
THIS MONSTER CHASED US! IT WAS A LOT SCARIER THAN THE KIND YOU SEE ON TV! IT ATE EVERYBODY ELSE!

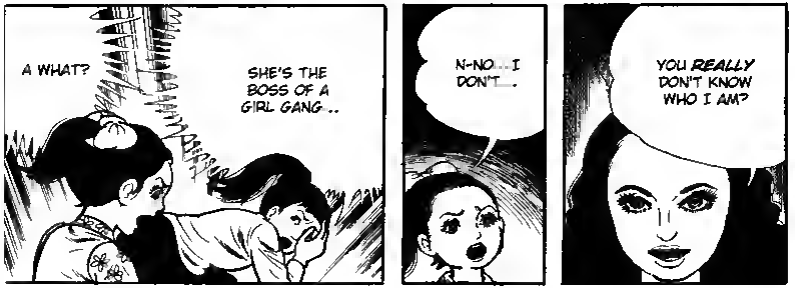

HELLP!
THE SCHOOL!
YOU WERE WITH SHO!
HELP!
WHAT THE..?
IT ATE THEM!
TH-TH-THIS MONSTER ATE EVERYONE!
YU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UWAAH !!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AND TASHIRO WHO CAME WITH ME !
IT ATE SHO, IKEGAKI, OTOMO, AND SEKIYA

THAT'S RIGHT! SHO WASN'T A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE, BUT HE'S BEEN THE SMARTEST ONE EVER SINCE WE CAME HERE!
OUR "LEADER"?
SHO?!
AND OUR LEADER SHO TAKAMATSU IS GONE!
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD!? IT'S 'CAUSE OF...
WHY NOT!?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? DON'T TALK ABOUT SHO!
SAK!!
*SIGN=8TH GRADE, CLASS 3
I'LL TELL YOU WHY YOU SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT HIM..
OWW, MY HAIR!
AIEE!
YANK


OZAK
WAHH!
H-HURRY! WE HAVE TO GET INSIDE AND SHUT THE GATE!
GO UP TO THE THIRD FLOOR!
GET INSIDE!
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!
AAGH!
EEYAA!
YAHH!
AGGH!
WHAT HAPPENED !?
WHAT?!
THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK!
QUIET, EVERYBODY! LISTEN TO ME!

CHAPTER 13:
THE NEW LEADER





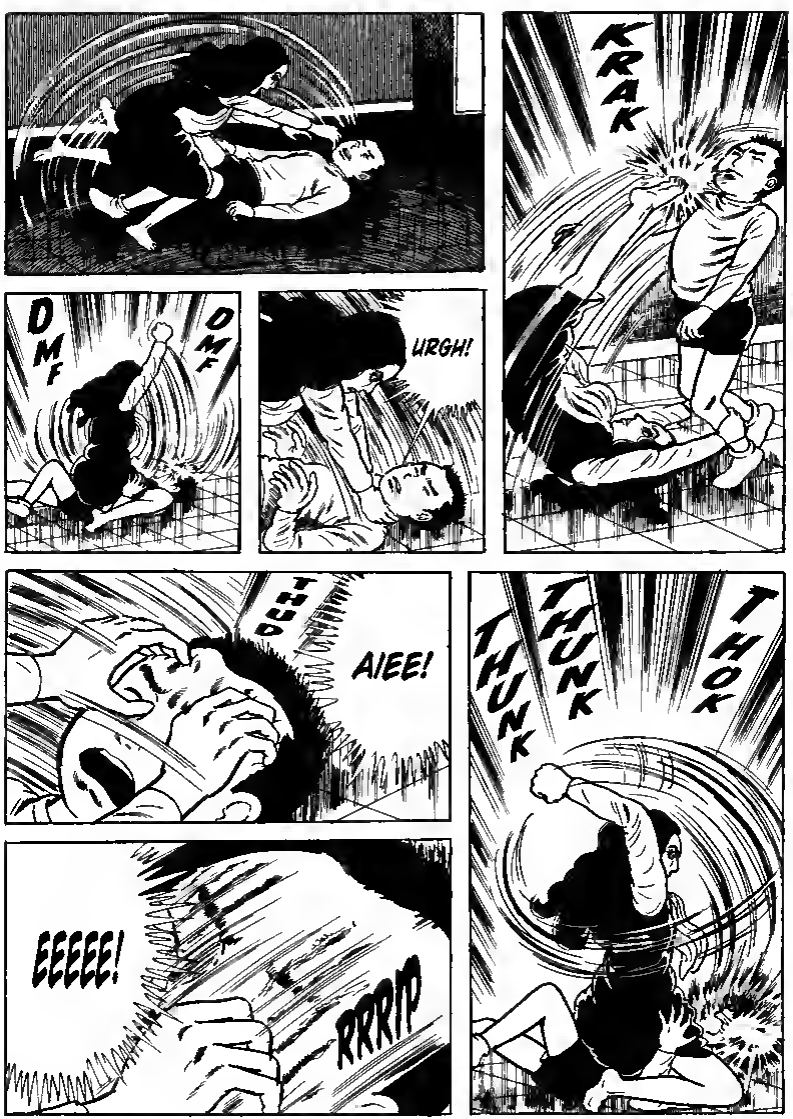
URRGH!
AIEE!
THOK
MIND YOUR OWN FUCKING BUSINESS!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IF YOU'VE GOT TO CALL ME SOMETHING, CALL ME PRINCESS!
THAT BITCH! NO ONE CALLS ME A GANG LEADER!
I'M THE LEADER FROM NOW ON!
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE YOU HAVE TO CALL ME THE PRINCESS OF YAMATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
BUT YOU'RE A GIRL!
OKAY!
HATSUKO, GRAB HIM
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
COME HERE, YOU!
ARGH!
L-LET GO OF ME!
DON'T YOU RUN AWAY LIKE SOME SISSY!

ANYONE WHO DISAGREES SHOULD STEP FORWARD AND TELL ME TO MY FACE!
SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT A GIRL SHOULD BE IN CHARGE! LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED EVER SINCE SHO TAKAMATSU TOOK OVER!
TOMEKO! HATSUKO! BRING HIM OVER HERE!
OVER THERE! YOU LOOK PRETTY ANGRY!
HAH! THINK YOU'RE A BIG SHOT, HUH? THEN I WON'T HOLD BACK!
COME HERE!
YOU!
THOK
TAKE THIS!
KRAK
KRIK
KRIK

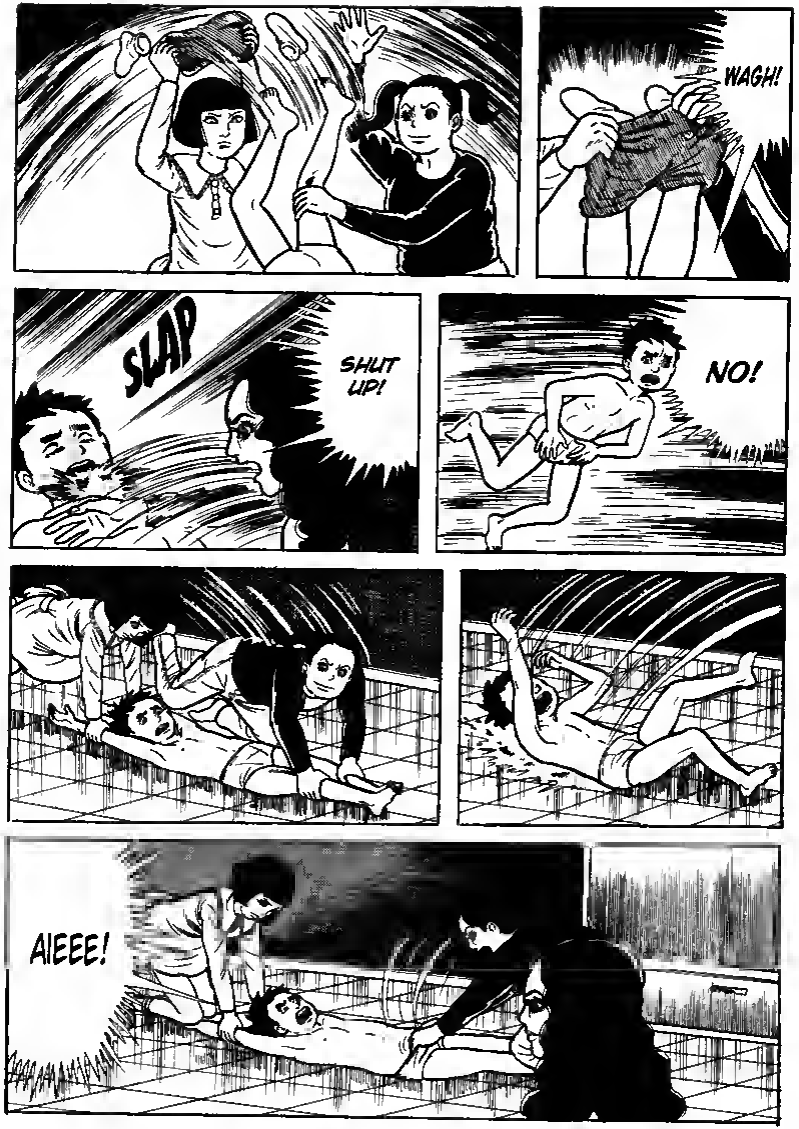
HERE HE IS!
OWW!
COME ON!
I SAID, LOOK AT ME!
LOOK ME IN THE EYES!
CARE TO EXPLAIN THAT?
"BUT YOU'RE A GIRL"?! IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID?
THINK ABOUT IT! AT OUR AGE, WE'RE MORE DEVELOPED THAN YOU BOYS, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY!
WHY CAN'T A GIRL BE THE BOSS?
G-GIRLS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THE BOSS
W-W-WELL...

RYAHH!
THWAK
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW GIRLS ARE STRONGER!
STOP IT!
AIEE!
SPLASH!
FWAK
URGH!
YAHH!
HUH?!
PRINCESS!
WHAM


KRAK
DMF
DMF
URGH!
THD
AIEE!
THUNK
THUNK
THOK
EEEEE!
RRRIP

HELP ME!
AGH!
SOME-BODY, STOP THEM!
AGGH!
NO! DON'T!
NOT MY PANTS!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?
HAH!
AGGH... GGH...
AIEEE!
HE'S NEXT! STRIP THIS WIMP NAKED!
NO, DON'T DO THIS!
SOME-BODY, HELP!
NO, PLEASE!


WAGH!
SLAP
SHUT UP!
NO!
AIEEE!

NOOO!
AIEEE!
LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOYS!
DO YOU SEE NOW?
AGGH!
STOMP
IF IT WAS ANY OTHER DAY, I WOULD HAVE BEEN HANGING OUT IN KICHIJOJI OR SHINJUKU, AND I WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE BEEN HERE! I FUCKING HATE SCHOOL!
I DIDN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOU. YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE WORTH THE TROUBLE IF THIS WHOLE THING DIDN'T HAPPEN!
WHOSE FAULT IS IT THAT ALL THIS HAPPENED? CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S BECAUSE OF HIM?!
WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT I'M STUCK HERE!?

HA HA HA HA!
YOU MEAN SEKIYA?
YEAH, WHO?
WH-WHAT?! WHO ARE YOU BLAMING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
WHAT!?
I MEAN SHO TAKAMATSU!
AIEE!
SMAP
SHUT UP!
Y-YOU MADE THAT UP!
HOW COULD IT BE SHO'S FAULT!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE DOING, DEFENDING TAKAMATSU!?

DON'T EVER SAY HIS NAME AGAIN! IT'S BETTER IF WE ALL FORGET ABOUT HIM!
AKABANE!
SH-SHE'S RIGHT!
I-I-I'LL TELL THE TRUTH!
THAT'S HOW THE MONSTER GOT HIM!
WHEN THE MONSTER ATTACKED US, SHO WAS SO SCARED HE FAINTED!

SHUT UP!
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS 'CAUSE YOU CHOSE THE WRONG SIDE!
YOU'RE LYING!
SHO TAKAMATSU WAS A COWARD! THAT'S WHY HE'S DEAD!
THAT'S WHY I'M THE LEADER NOW! AND THINGS WON'T BE SO EASY!
WHEN THINGS ARE OUT OF CONTROL, YOU HAVE TO DO THINGS A NEW WAY!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CRISIS!
SOMETIMES THAT MEANS DOING HARSH THINGS! I KNOW THAT FROM BEING A "GANG LEADER"--IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO CALL ME!
UNTIL NOW ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS GET GOOD GRADES! FORGET ABOUT THAT USELESS SHIT! THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS FINDING A WAY TO SURVIVE!
THAT'S CRAZY!
IF PEOPLE TRY TO MAKE TROUBLE, WE MIGHT EVEN NEED TO HAVE EXECUTIONS.
AIEE!
KRUSH

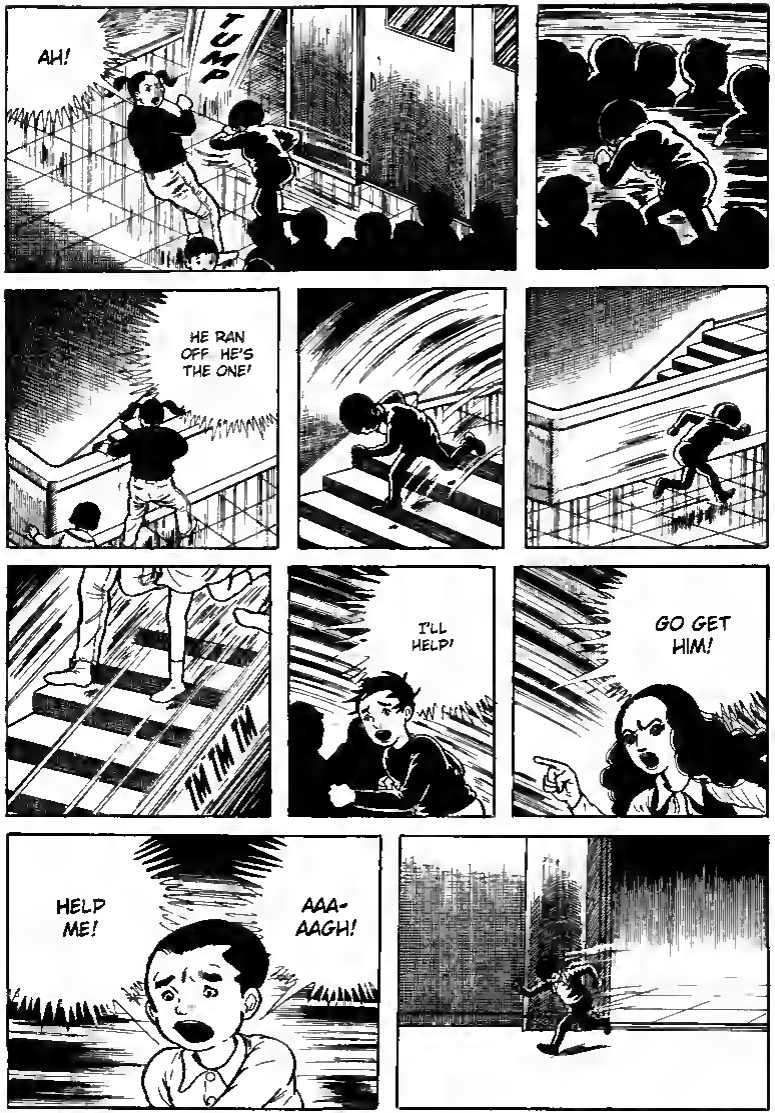
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT !?
PUSH
NO, I DIDN'T!
WAIT! THEN YOU MEAN...YOU JUST LEFT HIM BEHIND?!
I HAD TO MAKE IT BACK HERE TO WARN YOU ALL!
YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME! I FOUGHT TO THE END! THE MONSTER ATE THE OTHERS, BUT I FOUGHT TO THE VERY END!
UH-HUH!
RIGHT, YU? I TOOK YOU BACK TO THE SCHOOL, RIGHT!?
YOU SAW HOW I SAVED YU AND BROUGHT HIM BACK.

SO YOU WANT TO FIGHT?!
AH!
TUNK
YOU BITCH!
NO! DON'T HURT HER!
WHAP
WHAP
WAAH! WAAH!
WHAK
AIEE!
YU!
SHUT UP!

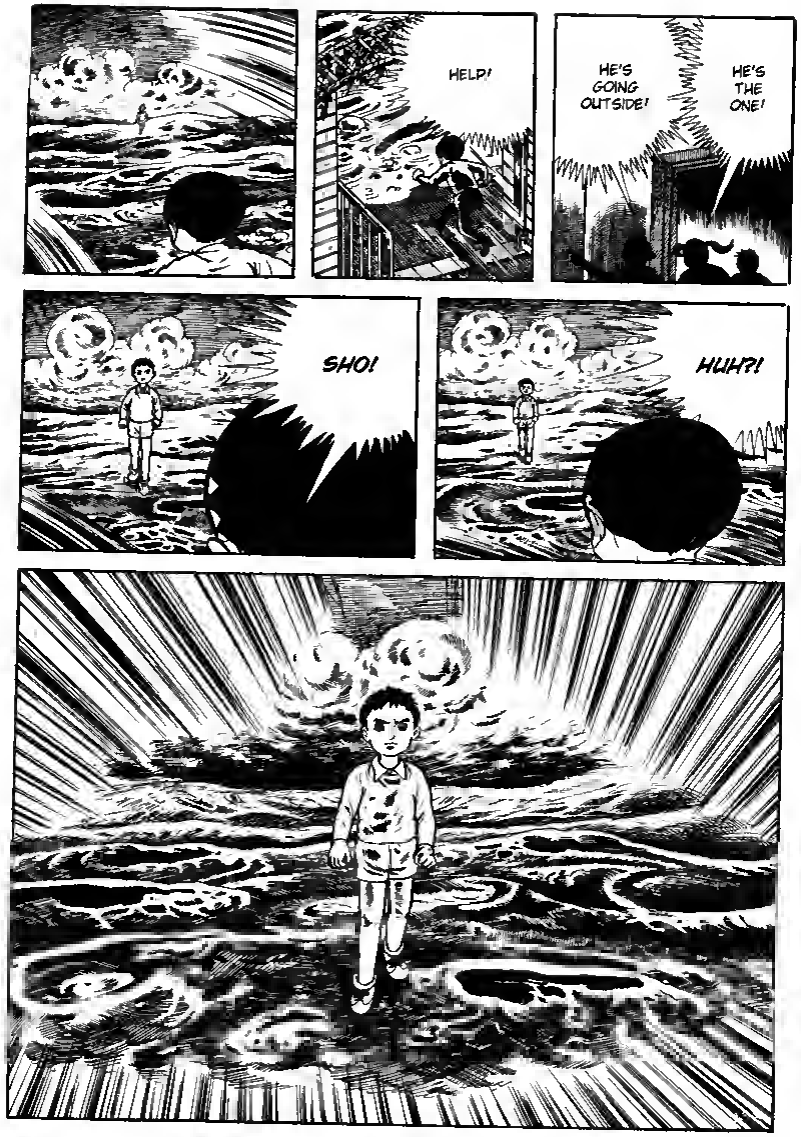
I'M SURE EVERYONE ELSE FEELS THE SAME AS I DO!
BESIDES, I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU AND AKABANE ARE SAYING ABOUT SHO!
WHAT?! DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING AGAINST ME?!
I BELIEVE IT IF AKABANE SAID IT.
I'M JUST SAYING YOU HAVE NO PROOF!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST YOU!
THOK
...CLOSER LOOK!
HERE, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A...
WHAT'S WITH THIS CLENCHED FIST!?

NOW WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A TRIAL!
YOU BOYS BETTER WATCH OUT!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO ANYONE WHO DISOBEYS ME!
THUNK
TRIAL!?
KRAK
WHAT!?
SOMEONE'S BEEN STEALING FOOD FROM THE STORAGE ROOM!
SOMEONE WITH ONLY ONE SHOE!
THE CULPRIT IS A BOY!

THIS IS ONE OF THEM! HE WAS SO BUSY PIGGING OUT HE DIDN'T REALIZE HE LOST IT.
I ORDER EACH ONE OF YOU TO TRY ON THIS SHOE!
I CAN'T TRUST WHAT YOU SAY! I ONLY BELIEVE HARD EVIDENCE AND MYSELF!
IT'S NOT MINE EITHER!
IT'S NOT MINE!
GOT IT!
TOMEKO! HATSUKO! I NEED YOU TO KEEP A WATCH AND MAKE SURE NO ONE ESCAPES!
THE ONE WHOSE FOOT FITS IS THE CULPRIT!


AH!
JUMP
HE RAN OFF. HE'S THE ONE!
TM TM TM
I'LL HELP!
GO GET HIM!
HELP ME!
AAA-AAGH!

WHAT !?
AHA! WE'LL START WITH YOU!
I-I'LL HELP!
ALL RIGHT, LINE UP!
SHUT UP AND TRY ON THAT SHOE!
C-COME ON! YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T
WRONG SIZE. NEXT!
NEXT!
HAH LOOKS LIKE IT DOESN'T FIT!
NEXT!


HELP!
HE'S GOING OUTSIDE!
HE'S THE ONE!
SHO!
HUH?!

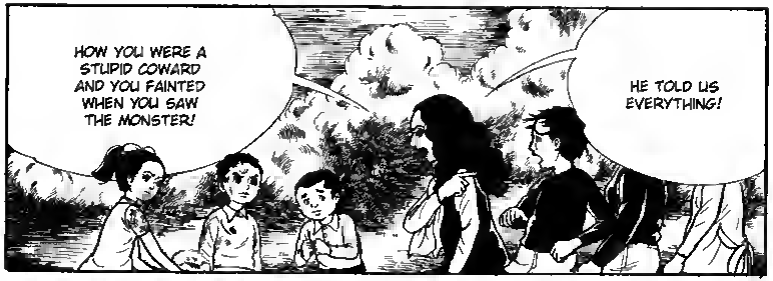
SHO!
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON!?
OH NO!

WHAT ABOUT YU!?
AKABANE, YOU MADE IT BACK? GOOD!
AGGHH!
HE BROUGHT HIM BACK TO THE SCHOOL
HEY, YU!
SHO!
WAHH!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!

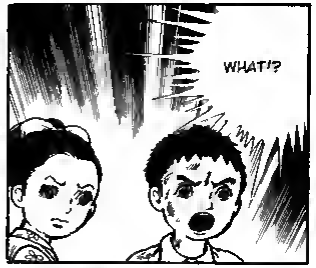
SH-SHO?!
WHAT!?
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
NO WAY!
IT'S A GHOST!

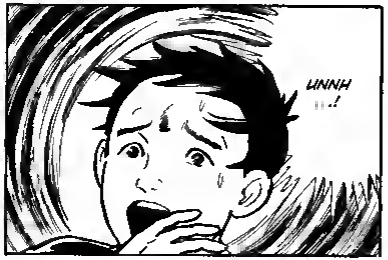
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
YOU'RE NOT DEAD!
SAKI!
SHO!
SEE .?
THEY'RE COMING!
EEEYAA!
I THOUGHT THE MONSTER ATE ALL OF YOU!

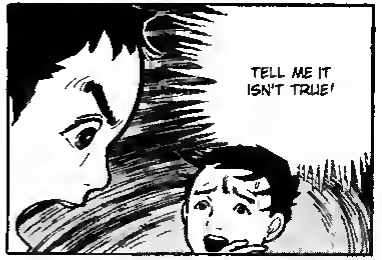
THE MONSTER ONLY GOT ONE OF US AND THAT WAS TASHIRO!
NO, WE MADE IT BACK.
OUT OF MY WAY!
HIS BODY WAS...ALL OVER THE SAND
I BET YOU GAVE HIM TO THE MONSTER SO THE REST OF YOU COULD GET AWAY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU ALL LIVED!
YOU'RE LYING!
I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS SCHOOL FROM NOW ON!
I'M THE PRINCESS!
WHO ARE YOU!?
WH-WHAT!?


HOW YOU WERE A STUPID COWARD AND YOU FAINTED WHEN YOU SAW THE MONSTER!
HE TOLD US EVERYTHING!

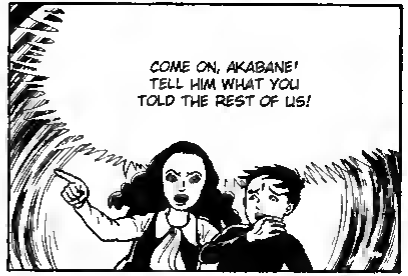
AKABANE!


WHAT!?

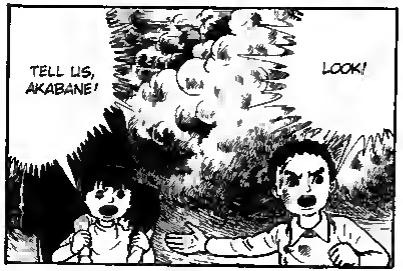

UNNH ...!


TELL ME IT ISN'T TRUE!

AKABANE!


COME ON, AKABANE! TELL HIM WHAT YOU TOLD THE REST OF US!

WHAT HAPPENED TO OTOMO? WE FOUND HIM ALL BEAT UP!


TELL US, AKABANE!
LOOK!

BUT HE WAS MUMBLING SOMETHING!
OTOMO HASN'T WOKEN UP YET!

Y-YOU'RE ALL TRYING TO BLAME ME!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
I-I DON'T KNOW!

AKABANE! WAIT!
UWAAH!
WHA--?!
WHAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? SEKIYA LOST HIS MIND FROM IT!
SO MAYBE THIS MONSTER ATTACK WAS JUST A HOAX?
DON'T INTERFERE WITH US.
TRAIIIN..! TRAIIN..!
CHOO CHOO!
WHUD
BUH BAH!
NO, HE'S NOT. HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE HE GOT KNOCKED OVER IT'S LIKE HE'S A BABY AGAIN!!
H-HE'S JUST ACTING!
FOO.. OOD FOOD!
DAHH DAHH!
WHAT!?
A MIDDLE-AGED MAN, AND HE'S STUPIDER THAN THE LITTLEST KID IN THIS SCHOOL!
GOD! WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS!
HAK!
YUK! ICK!
MMM

HEY!
THUD
YOU BETTER DO WHAT I SAY OR WE'LL THROW YOU OUT TO DIE FROM THE "MONSTER"!
THOK
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
SO YOU'RE STILL ON HIS SIDE!?
SHO!
WHUD
RRGH!
YEAH? WELL YOU'LL REGRET IT!
THAT'S RIGHT!

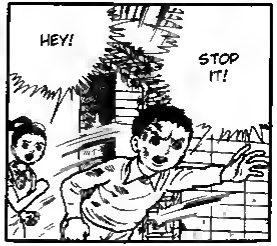
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO FIGHT OVER THIS! THE MONSTER WENT BACK TO THE FOREST AFTER IT ATE TASHIRO, BUT IT COULD BE HEADING THIS WAY RIGHT NOW!
YOU COME ON!
BUT COME ON, GET REAL THERE WASN'T ANY MONSTER!
YOU COWARDS PROBABLY HAD A BAD DREAM!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW SCARY IT WAS BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT!
HA HA HA!
IF THERE WAS, THERE'D HAVE TO BE OTHER INSECTS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS! IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
HOW COULD THERE BE A MONSTER EATING PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT?
WHAT!?
THAT'S A NICE STORY YOU COOKED UP, BUT I'M SORRY TO INFORM YOU THAT EVERYONE IN SCHOOL KNOWS WHAT A FAKE YOU ARE, AND EVERYONE HATES YOU NOW!

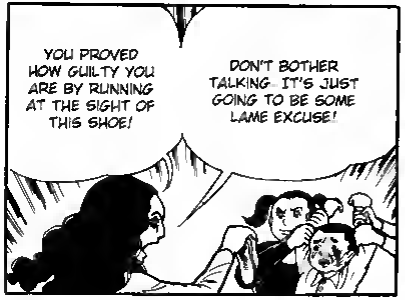
AIEE!

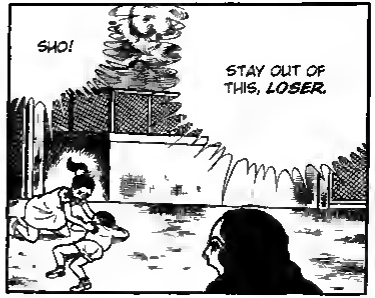
AAGH!
FWAK
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!

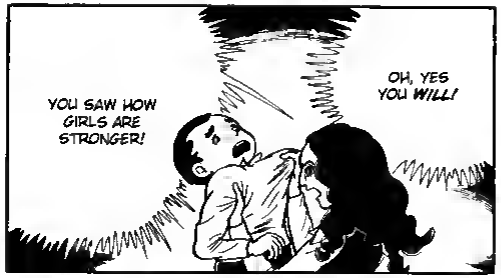
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION WE'RE IN? TAKING A SCRAP OF FOOD IS MORE SERIOUS THAN STEALING A MILLION-DOLLAR DIAMOND!

FWAK

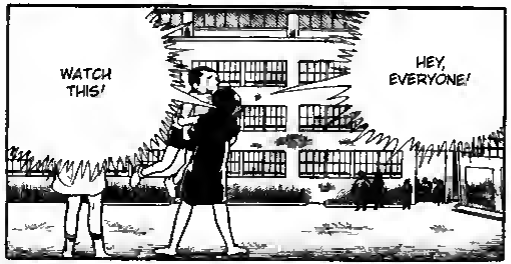

HEY!
STOP IT!

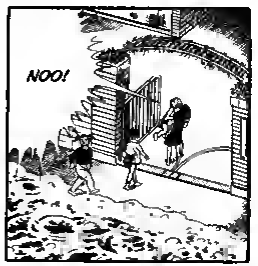

YOU PROVED HOW GUILTY YOU ARE BY RUNNING AT THE SIGHT OF THIS SHOE!
DON'T BOTHER TALKING. IT'S JUST GOING TO BE SOME LAME EXCUSE!

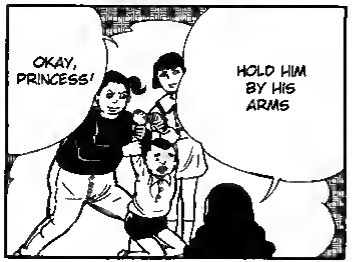

SHO!
STAY OUT OF THIS, LOSER.


YOU SAW HOW GIRLS ARE STRONGER!
OH, YES YOU WILL!

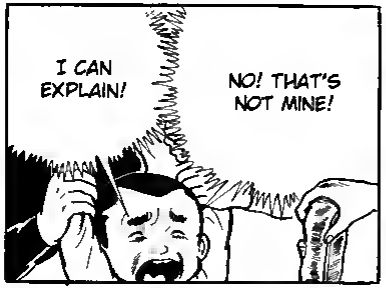
I DON'T WANT TO!
NOW... YOU! COME OVER HERE!


WATCH THIS!
HEY, EVERYONE!


NOO!


OKAY, PRINCESS!
HOLD HIM BY HIS ARMS

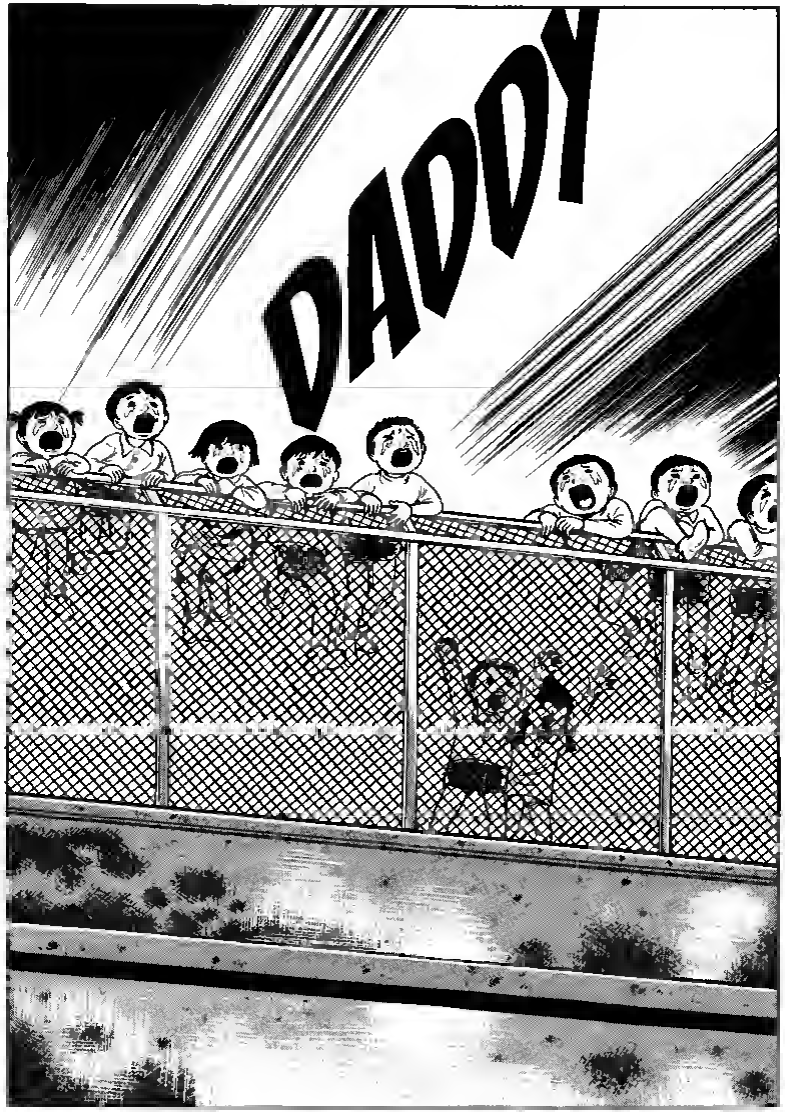
AIEE!
WHUD


I CAN EXPLAIN!
NO! THAT'S NOT MINE!

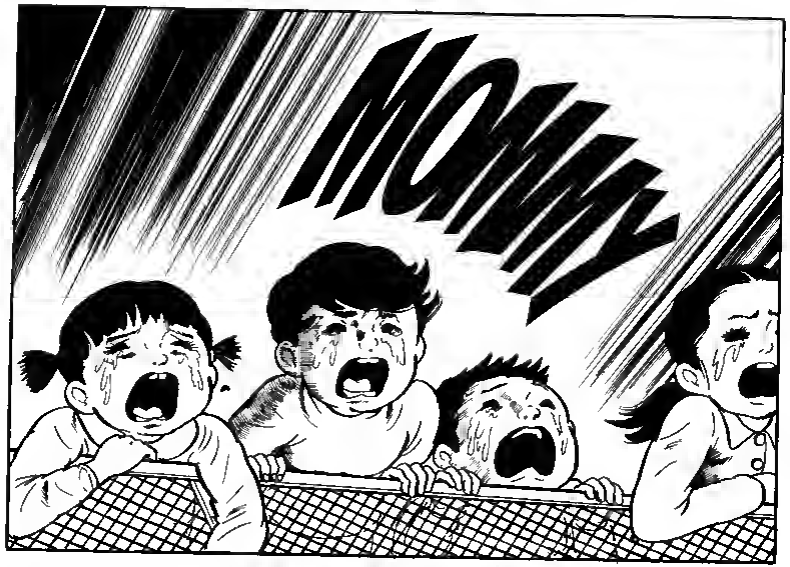
NOW LOOK AT THIS SHOE! YOU WERE WEARING THIS WHEN YOU STOLE FOOD FROM THE STOREROOM!

IT'S NOT MINE!
IF YOU WON'T ADMIT IT, WE'LL MAKE YOU WEAR IT!
WHUD
LOOK AT THIS SHOE!
HEY!
THEY MATCH! THEY'RE A PAIR!

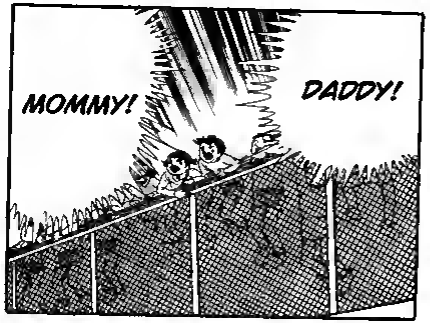
MY SHOES WERE STOLEN FROM THE LOCKER I FOUND THAT ONE LYING AROUND!
NO! THEY'RE NOT MINE!
I WAS SCARED YOU'D THINK I DID IT! THAT'S THE TRUTH!
I HAD TO WEAR SOMETHING! THEN YOU BROUGHT OUT THE MATCHING SHOE AND SAID IT BELONGED TO THE THIEF! I GOT SCARED, SO I HID THE OTHER SHOE AND RAN!
THE PERSON WHO REALLY DID IT IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE! PLEASE ADMIT YOU DID IT!
NO! PLEASE!
I'M GONNA HAVE YOU EXECUTED SO THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!
YOU LIAR!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STEAL A DROP OF WATER OR A BREADCRUMB!
EVERYONE WATCH! WE'RE GOING TO EXECUTE HIM RIGHT NOW!


DADDY

YOU'LL GET KILLED! ONLY AN ADULT CAN STOP HER!
URGH!
SHO, YOU CAN'T!
STOP IT!
NOOO!
IT WASN'T ME!
WATCH ME! FIRST I'M GOING TO BREAK HIS FINGERS ONE BY ONE!
MEOW-WOW WOW!
SEKIYA'S AN ADULT, BUT HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING
ARRGHH!
DADDY
LOOK ON THE ROOF!
DO YOU SEE THAT?!
S-STOP!

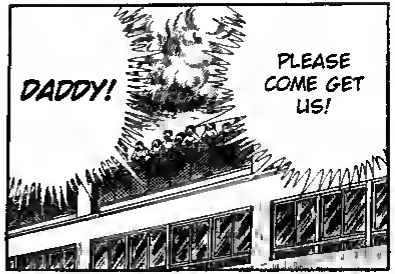

MOMMY

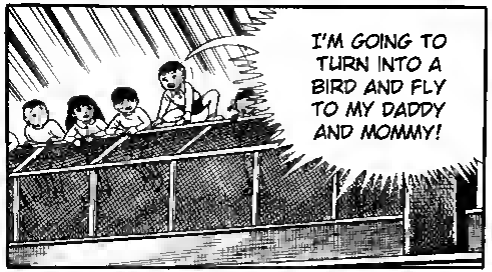
THEY'RE FAR AWAY. THEY CAN'T HEAR US!
LOUDER!

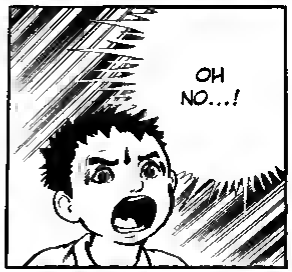

MOMMY!
DADDY!

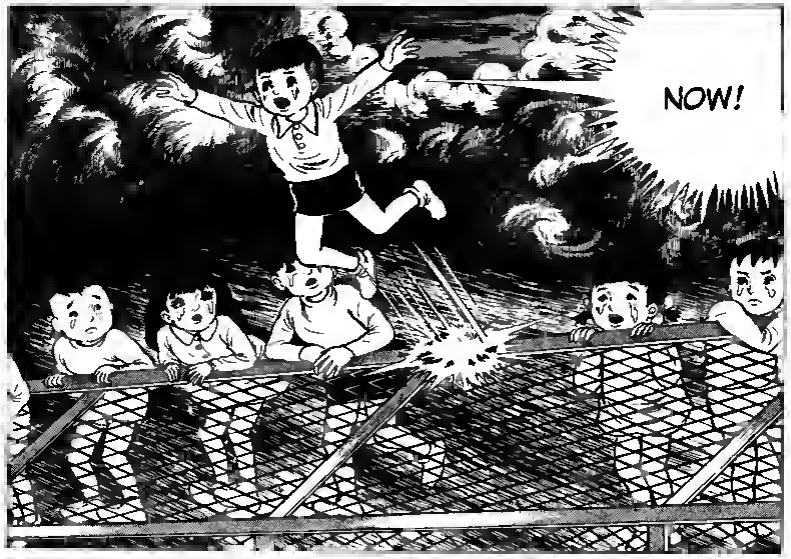
ONE, TWO, THREE!
CALL AGAIN!

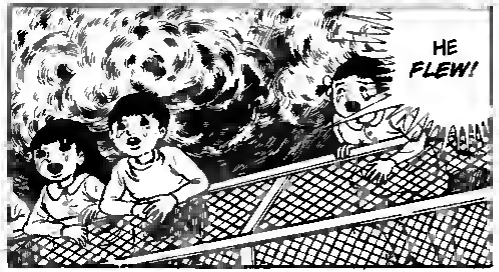
IT'S THE FIRST GRADERS!
LOOK!

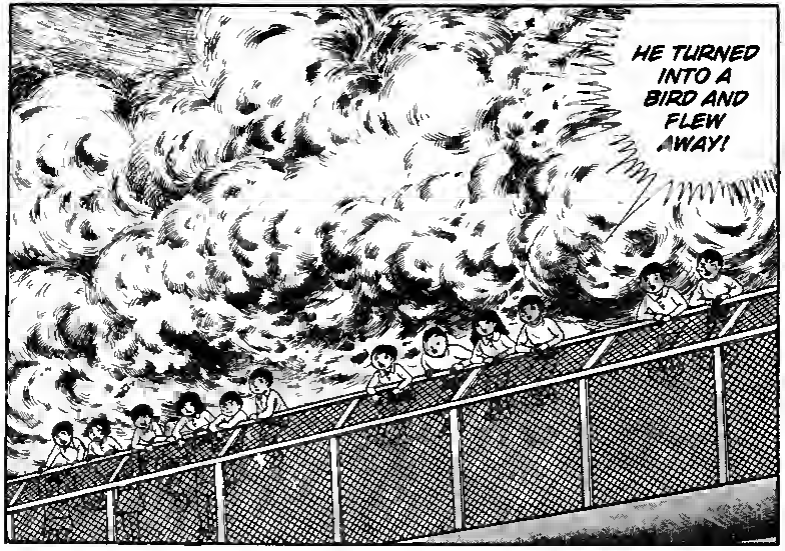

DADDY!
PLEASE COME GET US!


I'M GOING TO TURN INTO A BIRD AND FLY TO MY DADDY AND MOMMY!


OH NO...!


NOW!





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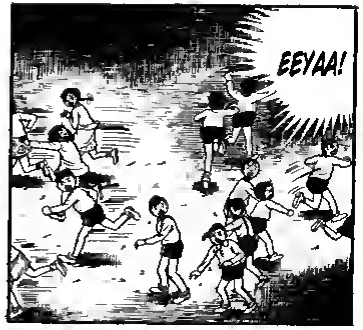

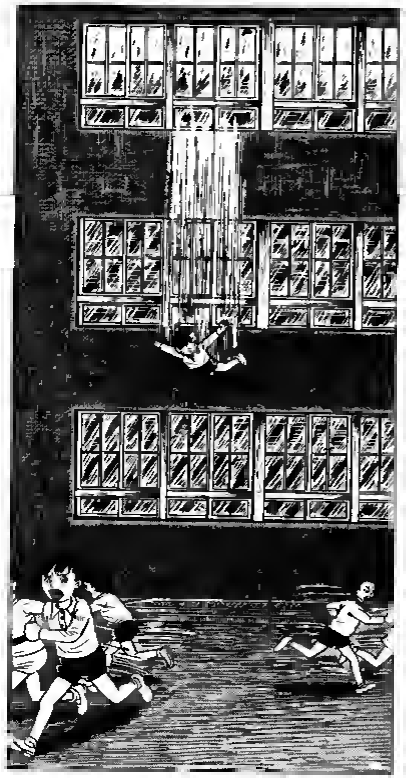

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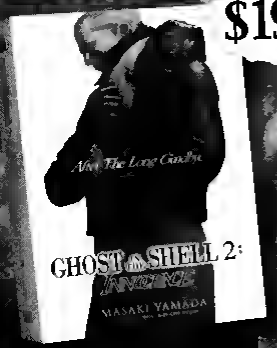

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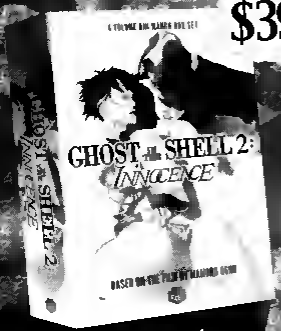

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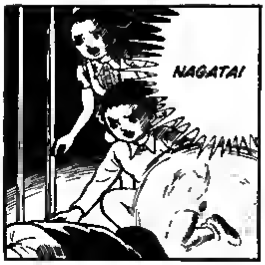

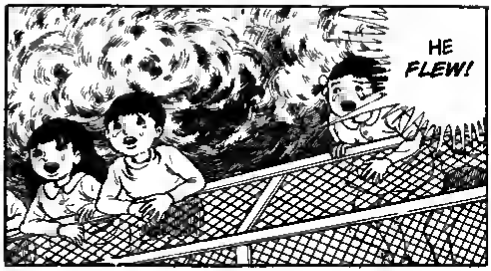

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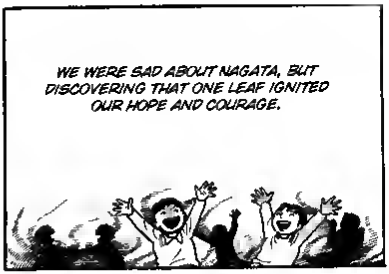

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